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after design?

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Paradise and purgatory
in the year's highlights

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
435,000

No 63,279

THE TIMES

SATURDAY DECEMBER 31 1988

30p

Disaster bomb 'put on board in Frankfurt'

Hunt for Palestinian cell based in Germany

By Harvey Elliott, Philip Jacobson, Ronald Faux and Tony Dawe

The team investigating the Lockerbie air disaster has told Scottish police that the bomb which killed 270 people was placed on board the Pan Am jumbo jet in Frankfurt.

The hunt for those responsible is now centred in the West German city, where a Palestinian terrorist cell is known to have been operating for more than 18 months.

Scottish police officers who flew to Frankfurt yesterday will be shown hard evidence of the terrorist cell's existence.

Meanwhile, West German officials announced yesterday that airport security would be "refined", especially in the detection of explosives and weapons in luggage.

Their statement was in marked contrast to their initial reaction - when evidence of the bomb was discovered - that it must have been planted in London.

Crash investigators are now certain that luggage from Frankfurt was placed in the forward cargo hold of the

Boeing 747 which continued the flight at London.

Scientists have established that the bomb, a sophisticated device with two separate detonators, exploded in that hold, causing the plane to break into at least five parts.

Investigators have yet to identify the type of explosive used, but the most likely is Semtex, the colourless and

The mystery of the missing wing from the 747 was resolved last night. A map plotting large pieces of the plane showed that the 30 ft deep crater in Lockerbie caused by falling wreckage is now thought to contain both wings from the aircraft.

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odourless plastic explosive made in Czechoslovakia. Britain has made five requests to the Czechs to give Semtex a "chemical fingerprint" to make it more detectable.

The Prague Government has failed to respond, but last night offered to send explosive experts to Britain to assist the investigation.

Yesterday, the nose cone, the most distinguishable part of the wreckage, was moved from Lockerbie as the Government pledged an initial £150,000 for the appeal fund for relatives of the victims and also promised financial help for rebuilding the shattered parts of the town.

Crash investigators have left the Scottish town for a New Year break after working over Christmas, but the police investigation has moved into a higher gear.

The Frankfurt terrorist cell is known to be part of Ahmed Jibril's hardline Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and to have carried out two bombing attacks on US military trains.

The British investigators who have flown to Frankfurt are also expected to be given access to a Palestinian man arrested by West German security forces two months ago. He is suspected of being a senior figure in the PFLP-GC.

In a statement in Damascus yesterday, the group denied any connection with the crash. But the denial was regarded sceptically by experts in terrorism who believe the group is trying to avoid possible military retaliation from the United States and avoid embarrassment for the Syrian Government.

According to West German official sources, Hafez Kassem Dalkamouni, aged 41, was among the 14 Palestinians picked up in a carefully co-ordinated swoop on several locations around the country on October 26.

Five flats were raided in Frankfurt, where Mr Dalkamouni, a Jordanian by origin, was detained. Large quantities of powerful weapons were found on these premises, along with quantities of explosives, including five kilograms of Semtex.

In another of the raids, at Neuss, an explosive device with a barometric detonator and other sophisticated bomb making equipment was discovered in a car thought to belong to one of those arrested. The device is similar to the one now being blamed

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To the manner honoured



An OBE for Pelelope Keith, the actress, pictured at the BBC in London yesterday.

Brittan among 27 knights

By Philip Webster

Mr Leon Brittan, the former Conservative Minister who next week takes office as one of Britain's European Commissioners in Brussels, is knighted in the New Year Honours List today.

The award, which comes on the day Mr Brittan stands down as an MP to prepare to take over as Commissioner for Competition Policy, marks another stage in the rehabilitation of the minister who

left the Cabinet at the height of the Westland affair.

Mr Brittan is understood to have let it be known to the Prime Minister that he did not

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wish to be considered for a peerage at this stage.

Questioned last night about his award, he said that he wanted to keep his options open for his return from Brussels.

He is not committed to returning to the Commons but sees no reason why that should be precluded now by taking the peerage, which his status as a former Cabinet minister would virtually assure him.

Mr Brittan's is one of 27 knightships in the list. Another is Mr William Shelton, Conservative MP for Streatham, Miss Janet Fookes.

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Three million face home loan rate increases of up to 25%

By Vivien Goldsmith, Family Money Editor

Three million mortgage-paying homeowners, about 40 per cent of the total, face unprecedented mortgage rises early in the New Year because their payments are adjusted annually rather than every time interest rates change.

Some people will pay 25 per cent more, and in most cases the increase will outstrip annual pay rises.

In the next four months, all big building societies will raise their rates to 13.5 per cent or more, the third big increase recently. While all homeowners with a mortgage wince at the higher rates taking effect in the New Year, those whose payments are calculated annually face massive increases.

The three million have avoided the summer and autumn mortgage rises, so the New Year increase will have a dramatic impact on their outgoings.

The homeowner with a salary of £20,000 who took out a £50,000 mortgage with an annual review will have to find an extra £100 a month when monthly mortgage payments leap from £400 to £500. On basic rate tax, earnings will have to rise by £125 a month to pay for the rise. So the homeowner will need an extra £1,500 a year in pre-tax income - or a salary rise of 7.5 per cent.

When the new payments are calculated, the amount of outstanding debt will also be recalculated. The mortgage rate stayed at 10.3 per cent until May, when it dropped to 9.8 per cent; it was not until August when it started climbing above 10.3 per cent. Five months of under-payment are thus tempered by three months of over-payment.

Building societies are keen to play down the prospect of a rise in defaults resulting in repossession, but emphasize the need for homeowners to budget for the increase and to keep their branch informed before any mortgage payments are missed.

The largest building society, the Halifax, which has 1.1 million people on annual

sympathetic basis but we can't offer blank-cheque solutions." Mark Bolat, director-general of the Building Societies Association, said: "The advice must be that if they are going to have any difficulties then they should talk about it with the lender."

The Nationwide Anglia building society, the third largest in the country, is considering setting the annual rate below the prevailing mortgage rate when the new level is announced in mid-January.

The last time the mortgage rate was so high was in April 1985, when it rose from 13 per cent to 14 per cent. In the early 1980s it was 15 per cent.

In the City, dealers were nervous yesterday about the prospect of another rise in base rates.

Bank of England figures out this week showing strong growth in the amount of cash in circulation have added to fears that the consumer spending boom is not yet over, and that further corrective action may be needed.

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Zola's aim

Although she will refuse to denounce apartheid, Zola Budd, the South African-born athlete, still hopes to run again for Britain. Page 43

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NI raises offer for Collins

News International has increased its offer for William Collins, the Glasgow publisher, to match the £403 million bid that Collins said had been made by an unnamed party.

Mr Rupert Murdoch's publishing group already holds 41.7 per cent of Collins and is now offering 880p cash for each Collins ordinary share and 735p cash for each non-voting A share. It reiterated last night that it would not accept any competing offer.

Collins ordinary shares were 1p easier yesterday at 850p and the A shares were unchanged at 705p.

William Collins is expected to give further details of the "white knight" approach early next week.

Its directors, apart from the two News International representatives, have not recommended the higher News offer. However, they have stated they would support the rival bid.

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Computerized records

Labour fears over benefits

By Martin Fletcher

A huge programme to computerize all benefit records has been brought forward by social security ministers and will now be completed by the time of the next general election.

The same ministers have also ordered Arthur Andersen, their consultants on the £1.2 billion operational strategy programme, to investigate ways in which it can improve the take-up of benefits.

The two moves have aroused Opposition suspicion that a fourth Conservative administration would abandon universal non-contributory benefits such as child benefit and instead target state aid just on the needy.

Labour MPs believe that Arthur Andersen will almost certainly have been briefed to examine the possibility of linking up the Inland Revenue and Social Security computers so that all those eligible for particular benefits could be identified, contacted directly and encouraged to claim. By

this means the Government could hope to achieve a near 100 per cent take-up of income-related benefits, and by doing so demolish the Opposition argument against abandoning universal benefits.

They have made much, for example, of the fact that 40 per cent of those eligible take up the new Family Credit whereas take-up of universal child benefit is at least 90 per cent.

Linking the Inland Revenue and Social Security computers would be highly controversial and would require new legislation as very tight rules govern any disclosure of information by Inland Revenue. But the scheme's supporters say Inland Revenue could supply the Department of Social Security merely with lists of those eligible for particular benefit to avoid disclosing details of their financial circumstances.

Though only a small proportion of the population filled out tax forms Inland Revenue has the PAYE

records of all income-earners. Operational strategy was to have been completed in 1992, but will now be ready early in 1991, the probable year of the general election.

Mr Frank Field, Labour chairman of the Commons Social Services Select Committee said yesterday that its completion would put the future of the welfare state up in the air. It could be used to increase benefits take-up or "to offer the electorate at the next election a fully fledged means-tested welfare state where all universal benefits are cancelled and help goes only to those with low incomes. "It is very important that Labour has an alternative to offer if the election is to be fought on that basis."

Child benefit is the main non-contributory universal benefit. It goes to about 6.8 million households with some 12 million children regardless of income, and costs nearly £5 billion a year.

Looking towards the closing year of "this great reforming decade", Mrs Thatcher says that as the British people have become more prosperous, they have become more generous towards each other; as they have earned more they have begun to build up their own capital and enjoy independence; as business has become more flourishing so it was more active in the community, inner cities, universities, schools and the arts.

As Britain's wealth has grown so it had the best ever health service, better pensions and housing, she says.

Mrs Thatcher speaks of 1988 as a year of tragedy and hope. There were the tragedies of earthquake, train crash and air disaster and the hope which came

Continued on page 16, col 1

Thatcher hails a flourishing Britain

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister says today that Britain's prospects are better than at any time this century and hails its increasing role in international affairs.

But her upbeat New Year message is contradicted by Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, who forecasts in his message that the Government will "blunder on" in 1989 and foresees a year of increasing ugliness, danger and violence because of its failure to take responsibility.

Mr Kinnock, attacking "defeatism and division", says that the thinking and responses for the changed realities of the 1990s will come only from Labour, and that the Government has failed to recognize its duty to prepare. He

demanding from his party self-discipline and unity, vital in the effort to win power.

In her 1989 message Mrs Thatcher speaks of the quickening pace of peace-making, and calls on all countries to pull together in moves to settle the Arab-Israeli and Iran-Iraq disputes, reduce weaponry, tackle environmental problems and take effective action against terrorism, violence and drugs.

She promises that Britain will be "at the forefront in these great endeavours" in the coming year.

Mr Kinnock, highlighting the help given by the world to the devastated people of Armenia, says the lesson to be drawn was that when need arose the instincts of cooperation pushed aside the habits of enmity.

NEWS ROUNDUP

£300,000 stolen in post office raid

Registered letters containing more than £300,000 in cash were stolen from a Post Office sorting office at Slough, Berkshire, during the Christmas break.

The packages, all internal Post Office mail, were taken between 3pm on Christmas eve and 9pm on Tuesday. Detectives, who have set up an incident room at Slough Police Station, said there was evidence that the raiders had forced their way into the post office.

Detective Chief Insp Harvey Grimwood said: "In excess of 25 to 30 packets, all crossed with blue chalk, were taken. Many were in green sacks and we are anxious to hear from anyone who finds one of the sacks dumped in a field, waste bin or rubbish tip."

TV privatizing study

The Government is to commission a 10-week study into the options for privatizing the television and radio transmission networks owned and operated by the BBC and IBA. It will begin in early February. Five companies have been invited to submit proposals, Logica UK, SRI International, Price Waterhouse, Deloitte Haskins and Sells, and Peat Marwick McLintock. The BBC and IBA transmission networks reach 99.4 per cent of the population. "We want to see that high technical standards are maintained while moving the transmission into the private sector", the Home Office said.

Death charge remand

A man charged with murdering a Coventry policeman was formally remanded in custody in his absence yesterday. Nicholas Hill, aged 20, of Rockfield Street, Gwent, exercised his right not to be present. Coventry magistrates remanded him for seven days. He is accused of murdering Police Constable Gavin Carlton and attempting to murder Detective Constable Len Jakeman on December 19. He is also charged with robbery, attempted robbery and another count of attempted murder.

Baby snatch charge

Two girls appeared before magistrates at Bristol yesterday charged with taking a boy aged 10 weeks from a hospital. The sisters, aged 12 and 12, were both granted bail. The court directed that the press should not identify either girl. It was said that on Thursday they took the baby from the care of nursing staff at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, without lawful authority or excuse. The charges came after an alleged incident in which a nurse prevented a baby from being removed from the hospital.

Police face inquiry

Cleveland police force is to be investigated for its handling of child sexual abuse cases. The inspection, in February, will be carried out by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabularies. It is an extension of his annual inspection of the force. The deputy chief constable, Mr Jack Orde said the inspector was being brought in after discussions between the Department of Health and the Home Office. During the sexual abuse inquiry Lord Justice Butler-Sloss criticized the police and social services for their failure to work together on cases of suspected child abuse.

5,000 bus jobs at risk

Thousands of jobs at one of Britain's largest bus companies are under threat because of wildcat strikes by 1,000 drivers. Yesterday, West Midlands Travel said the strike, crippling services throughout the region since Christmas Eve, had caused enormous damage. The drivers are expected to return to work today but the company fears the strike has already shattered public confidence in the service. A spokesman said it had "allowed rivals to expand and put 5,000 jobs in jeopardy".

Police cells free of remand prisoners

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

For the first time in three years, police cells were empty of remand prisoners last night who had been held there rather than in jails, the Home Office disclosed.

The fall comes after the end of local action by prison officers at key jails, a lower prison population in England and Wales than was expected, and the growing provision of extra jail accommodation. As recently as October 4, however, numbers in police cells had reached 1,917.

Home Office statisticians are now expected to revise downwards their future estimates of the prison population in England and Wales.

One reason for the improvement is the increase of remission entitlement for prisoners serving up to 12 months, provided by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary.

Forecasts for next year's total population in custody in England and Wales range between 52,600 and 54,400 and for 1996 from 63,000 to 69,000.

How closely those projections are met will depend on the courts and the success of the Government's strategy in

providing alternatives to custody. Numbers of prisoners on remand increased from 6,117 in 1980 to 10,691 in 1987, while those under sentence rose only from 34,973 to 36,234.

To provide greater opportunity for courts to avoid custody, the Government is to spend £13.9 million on about 500 new bail hostel places over the next three years, in addition to £3.8 million allocated last year for 200 additional places by March 1990.

The Government also has on its side the "demographic time bomb" - the 25 per cent projected fall in the general population of 17 to 20-year-olds between 1987 and 1996.

That, coupled with a drive to reduce use of custody for young adults, as has been done successfully with juveniles, offers greater hope for the next few years.

The Northern Ireland Office confirmed yesterday that many of the 117 prisoners released from Ulster jails for Christmas had committed terrorism-related offences.

They included murder, attempted murder and serious firearms offences. All have been returned to their cells.

Last pieces of sabotaged Flight 103 are removed from Scottish town

Government pledges aid to rebuild community

By Ronald Faux

As the cockpit section of the sabotaged Pan Am airliner was escorted through the main street of Lockerbie yesterday on its way for forensic examination in the south, the government pledged financial help to restore the fabric of the town.

Watched silently by townsfolk, an RAF low-loader carrying several tons of wreckage from a field at Tundergarth drove into town. The remains of the Pan Am aircraft, Maid of the Seas, were hidden beneath green canvas covers, but some pieces of twisted silver metal protruded.

The heavy vehicle slowly manoeuvred past Lockerbie town hall, still in use as a temporary mortuary nine days after the disaster. Police outriders led the way towards the southern exit of the town, close to Sherwood Crescent, where 11 people died as a section of the Boeing 747 crashed on to their homes.

Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, the Lord Advocate and Scotland's senior law officer, stood on the edge of the crater caused by the crash and said he felt horror that anyone could perpetrate such an atrocity.

"What I saw on television gave me no real sense of the horror as you see it on the ground", he said.

With him was Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment at the Scottish Office, who pledged the Government's commitment to renewing life in Lockerbie. He announced a £150,000 donation from the Government to the Air Disaster Appeal.

Lord James said that money was no real compensation for the loss and suffering experienced in the town. However,

he hoped it would bring some comfort and relief.

Asked where those responsible for the disaster would be tried, Lord Cameron said the Scottish courts would be entitled to have jurisdiction, but the crime had also been committed on a United States-registered aircraft, and against US citizens.

"We are not in with competing claims. The most important task is to find out who did it and bring him to justice", he said.

Both Lord Cameron and Lord James praised the work of the emergency services. Police have so far released the bodies of 24 victims.

In Longtown, Cumbria, later yesterday, wreckage from the aircraft was laid out in an Army depot to enable accident investigators from the Department of Transport to begin a detailed reconstruction.

Until yesterday, the investigators had examined the wreckage *in situ* around Lockerbie.

"Now it's all in one place, the examination can be carried out more systematically", a department official said.

Scientists and technicians at the Royal Armourment Research and Development Establishment at Portsmouth in Kent continued to study samples of material and metal taken from the plane to try to discover the make of plastic explosives. The forensic work is expected to continue for several days. Both American and British officials believe that the explosives may well have been Semtex.

In Washington yesterday, a counter-terrorist official at the State Department said no dramatic developments were expected for some time in the hunt for the bombers.

Another 3 face theft charges

A further three men appeared in court yesterday charged with stealing pieces of aircraft after the Lockerbie disaster.

Archibald Hartridge, aged 29, of Bonnaville Road, Archibald, aged 20, of Hillend Drive, and Mark Sarginson, aged 21, of Scott Crescent, all Hawick, Borders, appeared before Sheriff Kenneth Barr at Dumfries.

They are charged with the theft of aircraft parts from a field. They were bailed. In all 13 people have appeared on theft charges.

Thousands raised already for relief

The Lockerbie Air Disaster Appeal Fund was officially launched last night and donations for the victims of the tragedy have already reached hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Mr Roger Suddards, who set up the appeal for victims of the Bradford City fire in 1985, among others, flew from his home in West Yorkshire to set up the new fund.

Mr John Fleming, of Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council's legal department, confirmed last night that the non-charitable trust was being established to deal with the administration of donations and the claims of those who

suffered as a result of the air crash.

"The Government has made a large donation, Pan Am have already put an amount into the fund, and sums are being raised all over the country and in the US and Canada", he said.

Mr Suddards said: "I have been in Lockerbie this week to advise the regional council on the setting up of the fund, using the experience we had in the past with other disaster appeals."

"The money collected will go to help those who have suffered loss, including the bereaved, and also to those who have suffered damage to

property." No target has been set for the fund, but it is expected to run into millions.

A conference to help companies deal with disasters such as Lockerbie and the Piper Alpha oil platform explosion was announced yesterday.

It has been arranged jointly by the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Risk Management and will offer practical advice to firms on how to cope when tragedy strikes.

The conference agenda on January 19 in London will include advice on insurance and communications with the public, Press and staff.

"Today, it is becoming

increasingly recognized that companies need to pay great attention at the highest level to risk control", Mr Graham Mason, CBI's director of company affairs, said. "Sheer speed in putting into operation a pre-arranged, well-practised plan is a priority."

The Queen will be represented by Captain John Milne Home, the Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries-shire and Galloway, at next Wednesday's memorial service for the victims of the Lockerbie air disaster.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will be represented by the Duke of Buccleuch at the service in the Scottish border town.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, recently described it as "the most dangerous terror group" in operation today

One of the Palestinian groups identified by terrorism experts as a possible culprit in the Pan Am jumbo disaster yesterday denied responsibility.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, led by Ahmed Jibril, said it had nothing to do with it and blamed American and Israeli intelligence services.

"The PFLP-GC has no relation or connection with the crash", Mr Fadi Shurora, a spokesman, said.

The denial was treated with scepticism by terrorism experts, who said they would not rule out the PFLP-GC at this stage. Any of the groups under suspicion would have good reason to deny involvement because of the risk of military retaliation by the United States.

A further motive for the denial - whether true or false - would be the need to avoid embarrassing President Hafiz al-Assad of Syria. The group, one of the most ruthless in the struggle against Israel, is based in Syria and Lebanon, and Ahmed Jibril is a former Syrian army officer.

Any evidence that a Syrian-linked group placed the bomb on the Pan Am jet would damage President Assad's efforts to repair ties with the West.

The PFLP-GC is seen as one of several groups with both motive and ability for the bombing.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, recently described it as "the most dangerous terror group" in operation today

enormous pain but every one of the relatives has said that the experience was important in coming to terms with their loss", he said.

Relatives were not alone in seeking help. Soldiers, police and RAF mountain rescue personnel had all been exposed to the trauma of recovering bodies of victims from the countryside around Lockerbie. One search team leader told Mr Lockerbie had been unlike anything they had prepared for.

"When you follow a trail of debris and find a couple of Christmas puddings in their wrappings, then a teddy bear and then the body of a child it brings home to you the horror of what has happened", he said.

My 30-hour shift, by hospital officer

Doctors are reprimanded for inviting Mellor

By Emma Wilkins

Junior doctors at a north London hospital have been reprimanded by the chairman of the local health authority for inviting Mr David Mellor, Minister of State for Health, to join them on an exhausting weekend shift.

The doctors at Whittington Hospital, Highgate, hoped to show Mr Mellor the risk to patients caused by their tiredness while on duty from 9am on Friday morning till 5pm on Monday. They issued the invitation in a letter to *The Times*.

However, Mr Eric Moonman, the chairman, called a meeting of the hospital's junior doctors. He is reported to be incensed by the doctors' action, which illustrates current concern within the health service about the long hours which most doctors have to work.

Dr Matthew Barnard, head of the Whittington Hospital, had said he wanted to show Mr Mellor that reports of doctors falling asleep during operations were not mere "fisherman's tales" as the minister had suggested.

Dr Barnard, who is the most senior

anaesthetist at the hospital over the weekend, will have worked for 80 consecutive hours by the time he goes home on Monday afternoon. That is the second challenge to be issued in the past two days.

Mr Mellor said last night that a hospital visit would not be necessary. "I need no persuading of their case",

Mr Mellor said that doctors were not actually physically working during the full period of on-call duty. Many would be able to sleep for a few hours during shifts, some of which might last more than 100 hours continuously.

Dr James Bunn, a senior house officer on the paediatrics ward at University College Hospital London, kept a diary of a 30-hour shift from Wednesday morning exclusively for *The Times*. Although he managed only a few hours of sleep, he had to resume his normal ward duties next day.

9am: Arrived at the paediatrics ward and began rounds with registrar.

1.45pm: Administrative meeting with medical staff.

2pm: Four new children admitted to the ward. One had a viral infection another was vomiting. Spent most of

the afternoon discussing treatment with the parents, and exploring case histories. This is the side of being a doctor that goes first when you get tired. You begin to get snappy with people. After a long shift you begin not to care so much about being nice.

6.15pm: Time for the next ward round with the registrar.

7pm: Went to canteen for supper. Had just paid when my bleeper went off, calling me to casualty. Canteen staff put supper in oven.

7.05pm: The child was having convulsions and needed to be examined straight away to check that he did not have meningitis.

7.50pm: Went back to the canteen where I managed to gobble supper. Suddenly called back to casualty.

8.25pm: Back on the ward, examined two new orthopaedic admissions.

9.25pm: Things seemed pretty quiet so managed to get downstairs to the doctors' mess.

10pm: Had to rush back up to the ward when an intravenous drip came loose from one of the babies.

10.55pm: Medical Emergency - one of the babies stopped breathing and needed immediate resuscitation. Called three other doctors immediately. They

arrived within two minutes. Tried to keep the child alive by slapping its feet and using oxygen. I had been on duty for 14 hours without much rest.

12.15am Thursday: The baby went to intensive care and I completed some more drug injections.

1am: Called down to casualty. Pretty tired by now and at 1.20am, I managed to lie down.

1.45am: Telephone rang. Intensive care wanted to discuss condition of the baby. Tried to get back to sleep.

3.45am: The ITU telephoned again to inform me of the child's condition. Although I had been dozing for two hours, I was not fast asleep.

6.30am: The ITU telephoned because they were worried about the baby's breathing.

7am: The baby was stable so I went on up to the ward to check there were no problems.

7.30am: Toast and coffee for breakfast.

8am: Called in a second opinion on the baby.

9am: I start ward work. 2pm: Returned to ward after lunch and bicycled home. Got back at 4pm and collapsed.

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JANUARY SUPER

NEW YEAR HONOURS

CBE for producer who turned his back on the BBC

By Simon Tait

There is another cluster of awards for the arts and media in the new year's honours list, led by knighthoods for the chairman of Anglia Television, Mr Peter Gibbins, who took over last March after 15 years as chairman of the *Guardian*, and for Mr Geoffrey Owen, editor of the *Financial Times*.

A knighthood also goes to the sculptor, painter and ceramicist Eduardo Paoletti, who only joined the pantheon of Royal Academicians two years ago, and is best known for his stunning decorations of Tottenham Court Road Underground station.

One of the most interesting awards is the one to the television producer John Gau, who becomes a CBE, Mr Gau, the BBC high-flyer who left in a storm in 1981, was recently appointed director of programmes for British Satellite Broadcasting.

BSB has a franchise for three channels, films, sport and light entertainment, and

launches its satellite in August ready to go on air in September. Mr Gau, who is highly respected in the television industry for his documentary work, was considered an important catch.

He left the BBC after a glittering 20-year career, having failed to become controller of BBC1, a post for which he was widely tipped.

He has since criticized his old masters for their bureaucracy and financial wastefulness.

Ed Mirvish, the colourful Canadian businessman who bought and refurbished the Old Vic five years ago, saving it from certain oblivion, becomes a CBE.

Michael Holroyd, the author whose first volume of the George Bernard Shaw biography was published in the autumn, also becomes a CBE. He received a record advance of £625,000 from Chatto and Windus for the three-volume series.

Popular television stars are

also honoured. Penelope Keith and Richard Briers, who starred together in the situation comedy *The Good Life* and have won acclaim for many other roles, both become OBEs.

Peter Cushing, the veteran horror movie star, and Ian Richardson, both of whom have played Sherlock Holmes, become OBEs.

In the world of music Thomas Allen, the opera singer, and the baroque musician Christopher Hogwood both become CBEs.

Mr Angus Ogilvy's inclusion in the honours list comes a quarter of a century after he allegedly first turned down the offer of a title from the Queen.

At the time of his marriage to Princess Alexandra, in 1963, it was believed he was offered an earldom.

He is reported to have rejected the title, telling friends: "I don't see why I should get a peerage just because I have married a princess".

Mr Peter Gibbins (knight), 59, chairman of Anglia Television, came to television from newspapers. He has been chairman of the *Guardian* and *Manchester Evening News* since 1973.

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Sally Oppenheim-Barnes, (life peer), chairman of National Consumer Council and former MP. Minister of State with responsibility for consumer affairs from 1979-1982.

Angus Ogilvy (KCVO), 60, is married to Princess Alexandra and chairman of the Prince's Youth Business Trust. He is a council member of the New Zealand Labour Government.

Mr Alfred Morris (OSO), 60, Labour MP and Opposition frontbench spokesman on disabled people, honoured on the nomination of the New Zealand Labour Government.

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ROYAL NAVY

ORDER OF THE BATH

GCB

Oswald, Admiral Sir Julian

KCB

Kerr, Vice-Admiral John

CB

R-Adm I A M Norman; R-Adm

D R Shervail

ORDER OF THE

BRITISH EMPIRE

KBE

King, V-Adm Norman Ross

Dutton

CBE

Cmmdre I A W Berry, RNR;

Capt G A Eades, RN; Sug

Cmmdre R Radford, RN.

OBE

Cdr G D S Brown, RN; Cdr W J

Cmmdr M H Gwynne, RN; Cdr P

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BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL

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AIR FORCE CROSS

Lt Col A C Tait, RN.

ROYAL RED CROSS

Associates, second class

Sgt M H Gwynne, RN; Cdr P

Sgt M H Gwynne, RN; Cdr P

Sgt M H Gwynne, RN; Cdr P

Sgt M H Gwynne, RN; Cdr P

Sgt M H Gwynne, RN; Cdr P

89 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS PICKED UP IN OUR BRANCHES.

The way National & Provincial members are humming along with the people in our branches suggests they may be more than just business partners.

They know each other. They joke with each other. They understand each other. In money matters, guidance can only work this way: very, very personally.

This ad, the last one we're publishing this year, is more proof of this relationship. Instead of selling anything it is putting forward some of the more typical (or touching) ideas, visions, projects and resolutions for the New Year that N&P members have mentioned to us.

There are those projects for which N&P cannot offer even an ounce of help:

- 1 Cut down on tortilla chips.
- 2 Wear braces.
- 3 Make it to Les Misérables.
- 4 Shrug off notoriously depressing horoscopes for Virgos in National Press.
- 5 Change hairdresser.
- 6 Cut down on niblets/onion rings/peanuts/prawn hoops.
- 7 Stop shallow breathing.
- 8 Remember Mother's Day.
- 9 Try first thing in morning half
- 10 Nose job?
- 11 Don't just sit there talking about rejoining Esme's active-conditioning-designed-to-shape-form-&-recontour-classes at the Big Apple Studios especially as she's offering a session discount for a block of ten.
- 12 Try crab apple jelly.
- 13 Refrain from too much Zwartswaldy Kitchtart next time round.
- 14 Give up dieting as I'll never make it from "before" to "after."
- 15 Give up Martin.

Then there are those resolutions for which N&P can offer hundreds and thousands of pounds of help.

- 16 Be constructive.
- 17 Renovate kitchen and bedroom in mellow shades (bluebell and soft cream?)
- 18 Convert loft.
- 19 Start an alpine garden.
- 20 New compost bins.
- 21 Do not give up Martin. Make the trip to Hong Kong.
- 22 Renew household insurance.
- 23 Futon sofa bed for new loft.
- 24 Next year don't let quinces go to waste on front porch.
- 25 Don't give up on the first ever yellow sweetpea. Cultivation takes time.

26 Get quince wine making kit.

Some of our female members have truly admirable plans:

- 27 Enrol computer course for beginners.
- 28 Try and memorise punchlines.
- 29 Let it out.
- 30 Stop saying "I'm not a feminist but..."
- 31 Get on to Esther Rantzen about it.
- 32 Adopt Moby Dick, for rebinding at the British Library, or any other book that needs my help.
- 33 Read small print.
- 34 When he says "trust me" don't.
- 35 Don't sound like mum on telephone answering machine. No wonder people hang up.
- 36 Get used to saying "In my day..."
- 37 Make my mark as the secretary of the Pembroke conservation committee.
- 38 Do my bit to save the sky and publicly denounce anyone who doesn't use "ozone safe."
- 39 Waste my time just once by thinking of thirty three words to be made from SUPERWOMAN, average score twenty two, time limit St. Paul's to Queensway, longest word: Wo Superman!
- 40 Günther in Bayreuth. Write!
- 41 Take Roger to tropical isle off coast of Madagascar. But not from Gatwick(!)
- 42 Silk undies.

As have our men:

- 43 Make a speech.
- 44 Don't hold back.
- 45 Suggest updating promotional literature to include new MP 0761.
- 46 Dig up old friends.
- 47 Go to health farm for week on my own.
- 48 Put in for Sabbatical.
- 49 Stop patronising Pete, Cindy in Accounts, Mother, new commissionaire, Auntie Bee, tea lady. And the wife, of course.
- 50 Renew membership of National Art Gallery.
- 51 Go ex-directory.
- 52 Encourage feasibility study re: exporting microwaves to Greenland at next board meeting.
- 53 Give up on the late film.
- 54 Brush up Spanish.
- 55 Catch up on correspondence with chairman of British Telecom.
- 56 Parachute over Dartmoor for good cause.
- 57 Win twenty five pounds with Evening Standard commuter club.
- 58 Remember our anniversary.
- 59 Silk undies.

We appreciate that with some of these resolutions it may be the thought that counts, in the end:

- 60 Say hello to bank manager (and wish him a happy New Year).
- 61 Make it up with Mrs S., Alf in despatch, and Ron in the car park.
- 62 Wear rubber gloves.
- 63 Give up the Grecian 2000.
- 64 Invite twelve old people to tea.
- 65 Get German duvets.
- 66 Don't reach for the moon.
- 67 Wear shower cap.

While some of these resolutions could eventually turn out to be more than wishful thinking, or so we'd hope:

- 68 Adjust Pilar's wages as Juan frightfully good about lawn and might wash bathroom walls down in no time if asked nicely.
- 69 Convert to paper napkins.
- 70 Stop nagging.
- 71 Stop sagging.
- 72 Check eyesight, dental check up, blood pressure.
- 73 Go dutch.
- 74 Avoid puns.
- 75 Relax.
- 76 Have fun.
- 77 Have the piano tuned.
- 78 Join a choir.
- 79 Resurrect bra.
- 80 Make an end of Beethoven's Tenth. (forever.)
- 81 Concrete over front lawn and back. (That'll teach them.)
- 82 Sponsor something worthwhile.
- 83 Remember my dreams.
- 84 Start collecting notes on The complete holiday handbook for the single Samsonite.
- 85 Stop squeezing toothpaste from the middle.
- 86 Work on my signature.

What can we add to this, as guidance to our members?

- 87 Refrain from too many promises.
- 88 Buy a new umbrella.
- 89 Remember Father's Day, too.

May all this come true!

May all of you have a prosperous New Year!

And may we all live happily ever after!

NATIONAL & PROVINCIAL
BUILDING SOCIETY

Encourage staff to own firms' shares Lawson is urged

By Tim Jones
Employment Affairs
Correspondent

The Industrial Society is to urge the Chancellor to encourage thousands of workers to have a direct stake in their companies by making it easier for firms to introduce and operate employee share ownership schemes (Esops).

To date, only a few smaller companies in Britain operate the schemes, which were started in the United States to give employees a capital stake in the businesses which employed them.

The founders said the future of capitalism depended on wealth being widely shared and there are now about 9,000 schemes in the US involving nine million employees.

Basically, such schemes provide a mechanism for both the acquisition of shares on behalf of employees and for their distribution to individual employees.

Once a scheme exists with its employee benefit trust, it can continue to be an active player in the company's affairs.

Mr Alistair Graham, the society's director, said: "Something has to be done by

The Government is planning a campaign in the new year to cut long-term unemployment and to overcome labour and skill shortages. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, has commissioned a series of reports into local labour markets to examine why there is a mismatch between labour needs and the ability or willingness of longer-term unemployed to meet those requirements.

Mr Lawson in his next Budget to make the schemes easy to operate and tax efficient". He said because of the backing of Unity Trust, the TUC-backed bank, workers' resistance to such schemes was eroding.

Mr Graham said the schemes were "a very good way of underpinning employee involvement in a company but they must be combined with an open management style and good consultation."

"At present, and for reasons I don't understand, listed companies are uneasy with the thought of having more than 10 per cent of their shares in the hands of employees."

Mr Malcolm Hurston,

director of the Esop Centre, in a letter sent this month to Mr Norman Fowler, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, has said it is essential for payments from companies to an employee benefit trust as part of an approved scheme to be tax deductible.

In addition, he says, the trust should be free of income and capital gains tax especially since tax is payable by employees on shares which they receive from the scheme.

Mr Hurston added: "We believe that the Esop can become a distinctly UK contribution to the social dimension of the internal market of the EC."

Supporters of the schemes have gained a powerful ally in Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, who indicated his support in the recent White Paper, *Employment for the 1990s*.

Although not an Esop scheme, an example of employee share ownership in Britain is at the National Freight Consortium, which was in 1982, the first large British employee buy-out.

More than 80 per cent of NFC employees own shares and the number of shareholders stands at about 42,000.

Helping forest ponies to good health

PETER TRIVNOR



Dr Elaine Gill and friend at her home in the New Forest, where she is carrying out research into the health of ponies.

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

A three-year research project to discover ways of improving the health of New Forest ponies is being carried out by Dr Elaine Gill, of Southampton University biology department. It is being funded by a £50,000 grant from the RSPCA, which is concerned

about severe malnourishment among some ponies, especially in early spring. Some are less able to build up and maintain fat reserves needed to get them through winter.

Dr Gill believes one important factor is the animals' choice of habitat; those frequenting banks of streams and other wetlands, gorse and decidu-

ous woodland appear to thrive more than those living mainly on open grassland and dry heath. Other factors are age, parasitic infestations, dental problems and foals' early life.

Dr Gill will study breeding factors and will try to determine whether it is better for a foal to remain with its dam in the forest during its first winter or to

be reared on a holding. She hopes the findings may help ponies on Dartmoor and other commons.

The RSPCA has fitted 20 Dartmoor ponies with luminous neckbands, making them more visible to drivers. If they succeed in reducing the number of ponies killed by vehicles at night, more neckbands will be fitted.

Labour scheme to replace the Lords

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Labour leaders are considering a plan to replace the House of Lords with a second parliamentary chamber elected from the regions.

Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader and chairman of Labour's policy review group considering constitutional issues, has given his support to the idea of a Labour government establishing elected assemblies, with revenue-raising powers, for Scotland, probably Wales, the north of England, the South-west and other parts in a shake-up of the constitution.

He sees as a way of entrenching the proposed structure the establishment of a second chamber, which would be seen as representing the people against the executive.

It would replace the House of Lords and be elected directly from the regions or indirectly through a new network of assemblies. It would sit less frequently than the Lords but have certain blocking powers, most notably over any attempt by a future gov-

ernment to dismantle the new regional structure of government.

Details of the proposed constitutional reorganization are to be considered by Mr Hattersley's review group on democracy and the individual.

Mr Hattersley said yesterday that Labour had clear intentions to have a Scottish assembly with legislative and tax-raising powers. But if it were right for Scotland, it would be difficult to argue that it would not be right for Wales and other areas.

Giving such assemblies tax-raising powers should not cause increases in overall taxation; they would be doing things the Westminster Parliament was not doing.

Mr Hattersley has made clear in the past his support for a single chamber system, but he is prepared to support a second chamber if it can be seen as having a distinct role.

That would be possible if it were seen as a check on the power of central government, rather than being seen as part of the government.

Action on frozen meat sold as fresh

By Ruth Gledhill

Trading standards officers are to take action against butchers and market traders who try to pass off frozen meat as fresh.

Scientists are developing an advanced enzyme test to help officers to catch offenders and bring them to court.

The test already works for poultry. Some traders face prosecution for selling frozen turkeys as fresh before Christmas.

Research by scientists in the West Midlands, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has refined a fresh meat test which uses an enzyme technique.

Mr Mel Billington, the Birmingham and West Midlands public analyst, said a report has been sent to the ministry after the first stage of the research. He will soon apply for funding to extend the test to meat.

Analysts in Somerset used the test to examine Christmas turkeys bought by their trading standards officers, and discovered that one quarter of those being sold as fresh had been previously frozen.

To sell frozen meat as fresh

contravenes the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and the Food Act 1984, and also increases the risk of salmonella.

The test works by detecting an enzyme which is released from cells ruptured by freezing to below about -12C.

But the scientists in the West Midlands, working with colleagues in Hereford and Worcester, have modified the test to make it more robust and more easily applicable and hope to extend it to beef, pork and lamb.

Mr Eric Herbert, assistant country trading standards officer for Hereford and Worcester, said: "We have only looked at poultry so far but we shall be considering meat in the future."

The practice of passing off frozen meat as fresh is considered more of a problem in the provinces than in London, where turnover is too fast to make it worthwhile.

Dr Peter Farnell, public analyst in Somerset, said: "It can cause a health risk but the objection is that it is absolute fraud, like clocking cars."

Rescue operation for birds in beach oil slick

Wildlife experts were trying to save 105 sea birds yesterday, found covered in oil on beaches. The Department of Transport also began an investigation into the three-mile slick washing up on the south coast.

The RSPCA operation to rescue contaminated gulls, razorbills and grebes stretched for 35 miles, with inspectors and volunteers combing the shore from Brighton, East Sussex, to Bexhill, near Hastings.

The birds were taken to a cleaning centre near Taunton, Somerset, while a Department of Transport maritime surveyor analysed samples, trying to match the heavy fuel oil with ships known to have passed through the Channel. The blackened bodies of 19

birds were found on one beach and cleaned. Others too badly affected were destroyed.

Mr Syd Bellingham, the RSPCA superintendent co-ordinating the rescue operation, said it was the worst event of its kind in Britain for a year.

"But the cleansing and rehabilitation treatment has a good success rate, so we hope eventually to be able to return most of the birds back to the sea", he said. "It could take weeks."

Investigators think the oil was deliberately discharged as waste or washed into the sea by a ship cleaning out her storage tanks.

"It would probably have been reported if it had been an accident", a spokesman said yesterday.

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ADDIS SMOKEBUSTER ALARM
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Minibus boom highlights ills and thrills of Kenya under Moi

From Andrew Buckoke
Nairobi

If you were looking for a symbol of Kenya, which this month celebrated its 25th anniversary of independence, all you would have to do is step judiciously off the curb. You are likely to be run down by something called a *matatu*. Buses, Ground Mole, Muringari Airbus, Pamazuka or Caroliner Success.

These are all names painted on *matatus*. A *matatu* is one of the 100,000-odd privately owned minibuses — usually with a colourfully striped body — that hurtle all over Kenya.

Overcrowded and almost always careering along with scant regard for the traffic regulations, they represent much that is good and bad about today's Kenya.

The good side is obvious, Kenya

works. The entrepreneurial spirit encouraged by the Government means that those who cannot get on to, or afford, the by African standards excellent air, rail and bus services have an alternative way to travel or get to work.

They also illustrate the bad side. Regulations are circumvented by corruption. If a *matatu* is stopped by a police road block it is normal practice for the proceeds of a whip-round among the passengers to be deftly slipped to a policeman. Many of the thousands killed on Kenya's roads every year are passengers crammed into poorly maintained *matatus*.

The payment of the driver according to the number of trips he makes provides the incentive for speed. A cartoon in a local paper showed a *matatu* overtaking one of the cars in the Safari Rally. The name of one *matatu* — Hint

Controller — suggests the Government's increasing intolerance of dissenting views. Not long ago the Government ordered people to refrain from political discussions on buses. This is unenforceable on *matatus* and of little significance on most of the larger buses, whether private or part of the National Bus Service network.

On the Nyayo buses, however, discipline is strict. The youth-wingers from Kana, Kenya's sole legal political party, who run them insist on good behaviour from the passengers.

Nyayo means footsteps, and refers to President Moi's declared aim of following the policies instituted by Kenya's first President, who died in 1978.

As the 10th anniversary of the Nyayo era in October illustrated, however, President Moi is firmly established in his own right,

having consolidated unprecedented powers in the presidency. Criticism from lawyers, the clergy and other educated Kenyans is rejected, while the people expressing it are increasingly likely to be

Nairobi (AFP) — The Israeli flag was raised over its embassy here yesterday for the first time in 15 years after the resumption of diplomatic ties with Kenya. Ambassador-designate Arifeh Irtan said President Moi's decision to renew ties was a courageous step that could assist in moves towards a negotiated settlement in the Middle East.

arrested. Mr Peter Kareithi, the editor of the *Financial Review*, was briefly detained in early December. Recent articles in the weekly magazine had complained of the importation of goods also

manufactured in Kenya and hinted that senior politicians were involved in the lucrative business.

Though Kenya has a largely capitalist economy, its incipient industry is regulated by price controls and allocations of foreign exchange for imported input, while its competitiveness is usually eroded by protection of the local market. Politicians are among the businessmen who take advantage of the monopolies enjoyed by many local companies.

The result is that industry is growing relatively slowly, while agriculture is no longer capable of absorbing a population growing at nearly 4 per cent a year.

Nearly half a million school leavers must compete for less than 100,000 new jobs in the formal sector each year. The resulting stresses have not yet generated any significant opposition, though

there is a lot of private grumbling among the urban population.

Four shadowy opposition movements have appeared in recent years, apparently hoping to take advantage of the discontent. Nearly 100 people have been jailed for their alleged connections with the movements — mostly with Mwakenya, but also with the recently named Kenya Patriotic Front, Kenya Revolutionary Movement and National Salvation Front — after confessions that followed prolonged detention.

Though the Government has said it will lower import barriers and take other measures to increase the competitiveness of industry, so that it may compensate for the limited further scope of agriculture and tourism, little action has followed.

President Moi is increasingly

referred to as "our beloved President" or "the father of the nation". Nobody may stand against him and recent demonstrations against dissidents were virtually compulsory for politicians to attend.

The 30,000 strong Maasai Vehicles Owners Association and Kenya Country Bus Owners Association were until recently bastions of the businessmen upon whom Mr Moi depended for support.

At the beginning of the month, however, the bus owners overstepped the mark by announcing a doubling of fares.

The President promptly banned both organizations, telling owners to work independently and change the old fares.

The Nyayo buses make a profit without resorting to fare increases, he said.

Yugoslavia crisis deepens

Mikulic resigns after MPs reject economic reforms

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

Yugoslavia was plunged into an unprecedented government crisis yesterday when Prime Minister Branko Mikulic and his Government resigned after Parliament blocked his economic policies.

The Belgrade Government had drawn up the 1989 budget and a package of laws to usher in reforms designed to reshape the economy and lower inflation, which is likely to reach 250 per cent this month. The resignations set the country the task of finding another administration that will command the trust of the nation, and the consent of the republics.

Meanwhile the Government will continue in a caretaker role, because the appointment of a new administration may take some time. Anyone undertaking the task, as one Yugoslav commented, may find himself committing "political suicide".

Bitterly criticized for failing to curb inflation, Mr Mikulic in his address to Parliament accused the regional lobbies of blocking reforms. He blamed the entire Tito era for accumulated economic defects which he said his Government had uncovered, and he said the remedy was radical change, which would require patience and inflict pain.

He listed the inefficiency of the Administration and civil service that he had inherited, and threw the blame for his failure to curb inflation on the

powerful regional bureaucrats, emphasizing that Yugoslavia's six republics and two autonomous regions had exerted a decisive influence on economic policy for which the country was now paying the price.

He said the Government only had limited authority and could not implement the changes that were needed.

When he took office more than two years ago Mr Mikulic came with the reputation of a tough politician and efficient organizer. He committed himself to reduce inflation, which

then stood at 80 per cent, by half but he is leaving office with an inflation rate that has trebled and with an admission to Parliament that inflation cannot be halted, much less reduced, in the coming year.

The Government proposed 46 draft Bills to aid reform, but only six of them were passed by Parliament. Mr Mikulic had drawn up a federal budget which was three times greater than 1987's total, but it failed to win approval.

For the past six months Mr Mikulic has been subjected to fierce criticism from the unions, newspapers and even high-ranking Yugoslav communist officials, who accused the Government of incompetence and of lacking courage and consistency in carrying out the task it set itself to achieve.

He took office in May, 1986, and should have served a four-year term but, after narrowly surviving a no-confidence vote last May, has come up against almost total parliamentary disapproval for his economic measures.

The Government's economic programme for next year was criticized as no more than a "list of good intentions and empty wishes" creating an atmosphere in which the federal Administration in the eyes of the population became the chief culprit for all the present ills.

These included the continuing price spiral, dwindling

living standards and a growing gap between the north and the south. At the same time ethnic rivalries and frustrations have provoked a new wave of labour unrest.

This year alone there were 1,300 strikes registered in the country. Some have brought down local leaderships as well as industrial managers, threatening anarchy and more serious popular discontent.

In May Mr Mikulic made himself unpopular by introducing strict pay controls, freezing prices and liberalizing imports under a deal with the International Monetary Fund and Western creditors in return for a rescheduling of the national debt and fresh loans.

This year Yugoslavs have seen millions of Serbs take to the streets in protest at ethnic Albanian control of the south Serbian autonomous province of Kosovo.

The Serbs in the province have repeatedly attacked the Government for not cracking down on Albanian nationalists, whom they claim are terrorizing Kosovo's Serbian minority.

Describing the gloomy atmosphere in which his Government had to function, Mr Mikulic said that "we are witnessing an escalation of nationalism, revanchism and destruction", where all means are being used to discredit people who disagree, without presenting any arguments in that fight.

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Mr Mikulic: Announcing his decision to resign yesterday.

Greek satire plays to packed house



An Athens billboard flaunting the much-publicized love affair between Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, and Mrs Dimitra Liani, a former air hostess. The billboard graces the city's Vembo Theatre, where a satirical review, *Little Dimitra's Sweetheart*, is playing to packed houses.

Politics and sex have been favourite topics for Greek comedians ever since

Aristophanes, the ancient Greek playwright, made the combination a smash hit in the 5th Century BC. This year the playwrights did not need much imagination (AP reports).

While the Socialist Prime Minister, aged 69, carries on a public love affair with his girlfriend, aged 34, his ruling Pan-Hellenic Movement has been rocked by a string of financial scandals. Despite

the growing furor, Mr Papandreu has refused to heed calls by the opposition to resign and hold immediate elections. He says that elections will be held as scheduled in June, 1989.

Mr Papandreu's heart operation in London last September inspired the title of another review, *Post-Aorta Greece*, written and directed by Lakis Lazopoulos, Greece's top satirist.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Israel acts to halt flight of capital

Jerusalem (Reuters) — The Israeli central bank took the unusual step of halting sales of foreign currency yesterday after a speculative rush out of the shekel drained the nation's reserves of more than \$300 million (£176 million) in a week. Banks sold \$80 million on Wednesday and about \$70 million on Thursday, a Bank of Israel spokeswoman said.

The bank said foreign exchange trading would cease until next Tuesday at the earliest, while Israeli media predicted that the Finance Ministry would devalue the shekel by up to 10 per cent tomorrow — the second devaluation in a week.

The Cabinet is due to discuss an austerity package tomorrow. Finance Ministry sources said it would include a \$600 million budget cut, an increase in the price of services and subsidized goods, and a freeze on other prices.

Call to cut US bases

Washington — In a plan likely to be approved by Congress, a bipartisan federal commission has proposed that 86 of the 3,800 domestic US military bases be closed so that the Government could save \$5.6 billion (£3.2 billion) over 20 years (Mehsin Ali writes). The 12-member commission's recommendations are considered to be the largest single rearrangement of military bases in the United States since the Second World War.

700 missiles scrapped

Seven months after the INF treaty signing, the US and the Soviet Union have scrapped almost 700 of the agreed total of 2,692 missiles to be destroyed, according to Major General Vladimir Medvedev, head of the Soviet Nuclear Risk Reduction Centre (David Rowan writes). He said 520 Soviet and 172 US missiles had been demolished, and the US had carried out some 180 inspections of Soviet missile sites, while over 40 Soviet inspections had been conducted.

Kabul ceasefire plea

Kabul — In a surprise television address last night President Najibullah called on Mujahidin guerrillas to observe a ceasefire which, he said, would begin tomorrow (Edward Gorman writes). The Afghan President said he would order government forces to cease all offensive military action from tomorrow. He appealed to the guerrillas to follow suit, but said they would have until Wednesday to comply. He warned that failure to do so would lead to renewed fighting.

Bishop reinstated

Rome (Reuters) — Moscow has given permission for Bishop Julijonas Steponavicius, aged 77, the leader of Lithuania's Roman Catholic Church, to resume his official duties after almost 28 years of internal exile. The Rome office of the Lithuanian Information Centre said a Soviet official had told local Catholic authorities that Bishop Steponavicius would be allowed to return to Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, and carry out his duties without restrictions.

Appeal trial in doubt

Georgetown (AFP) — The death in hospital here of the Grenada High Court President, Justice J.O.F. Haynes, aged 76, has cast doubt on the continuation of an appeal hearing for 17 Grenadians sentenced to death or long jail terms for the assassination in 1983 of the Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop. Justice Haynes, who was called out of retirement for the trial, said last month that the death of one of the judges in the appeal trial might necessitate re-starting the process.

Brezhnev son-in-law gets 12 years for corruption

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

Yuri Churbanov, the son-in-law of the late Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, was jailed for 12 years yesterday for accepting bribes worth more than £600,000.

Churbanov, aged 52, who was the Soviet Union's second-ranking police official from 1980 to 1984, swayed in the dock and bowed his head as Judge Mikhail Marov of the Soviet Supreme Court announced the sentence.

Six other defendants in the trial, all senior police officials from the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan, were jailed for between eight and 10 years.

The case of a seventh official, Uzbekistan's former Interior Minister, Mr Khaidar Yakhyayev, was suspended for further investigation. Another police official was acquitted.

Churbanov saw his career prospects improve dramatically after he

married Brezhnev's daughter, Galina, in 1971. He was appointed First Deputy Minister of the Interior in 1980, two years before Brezhnev died, and held it until he was dismissed in 1984. His responsibilities included supervision of the police in Uzbekistan.

The charges against him included taking bribes from highly-placed officials in Uzbekistan in return for covering up inflated statistics on cotton production in the republic, and protecting corrupt officials. It is now admitted that cotton, the main crop in Uzbekistan, failed to reach production targets despite constant announcements of record results.

Churbanov was also accused of accepting gifts, including gold, precious stones, fine food and wine, and of requisitioning a Defence Ministry detachment to build himself a country house.

Churbanov worked under the Interior Minister, Nikolai Shchegolov, who reportedly committed suicide in 1984. Shchegolov was dismissed by Yuri Andropov, one month after Brezhnev's death, and was later accused of taking more than £1 million in bribes.

Uzbekistan has seen several changes in leadership since the death of Brezhnev, and successive high officials have been accused of corruption. In the city of Bukhara

alone, hundreds of officials have been dismissed for alleged bribe-taking.

During the trial, Churbanov admitted the lesser offence of abusing his authority, but denied bribe-taking. Seven of his eight co-defendants admitted to taking bribes, but not to the extent cited in the indictment.

The prosecutor had requested a sentence of five years' imprisonment and 10 years in a labour camp for Churbanov. The criminal code of the Russian Federation permits the death penalty for economic crime of this magnitude, but the draft guidelines for the new criminal code removes the death penalty for economic crime, replacing it with a maximum penalty of 15 years' jail.

The case has been widely seen as a final indictment of the Brezhnev era. The fact that it was possible to bring Churbanov to trial at all, let alone convict him, illustrates how far the influence of the Brezhnev clan has waned.

Nevertheless, the four-year delay in bringing Churbanov to justice (he was arrested only in 1987), and periodic adjournments, suggested high-level opposition.

● Brezhnev humiliation: The memory of Brezhnev was subjected to a final indignity yesterday when the commemorative plaque was removed from his former home to the encouragement and muted cheers of Russian bystanders.

The plaque, on a large block of flats on Kutuzovskiy Prospekt, one of Moscow's main thoroughfares, was wonched off the wall by a team of workmen in blue overalls who clearly relished their task.

They grinned in response to calls of "Well done, lads. Excellent work!" from the crowd of about 30 people, while murmurs about the Brezhnev "Mafia" could also be heard. The plaque was dropped without ceremony into a small lorry, and the workmen ran into the waiting bus shouting cheerfully, "We're off to get Chernenko now."

French press turns the focus on Libya in hostage case

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

As two little girls, wide-eyed with surprise and joy, spent their first day home in France after 13 months in the hands of Palestinian terrorists, speculation grew that they had been held hostage not in Lebanon but in Libya for at least part, if not all, of their captivity.

Marie-Laure Bette, aged seven, and her sister, Virginie, aged six, are with the father they had not seen since 1985, but left behind their mother, Mme Jacqueline Valente, still held with five Belgians, in one of the strangest stories of hostage-taking in recent years.

Yesterday their home village of Ollioules, near Toulon, pulled out all the stops to welcome M Pascal Bette and his daughters home. Without the resources or standing of previous French hostage families, M Bette and Mme Valente's families had mounted a pathetic campaign to get the French Government to take an interest in the plight of these "forgotten" hostages.

Marie-Laure and Virginie looked bewildered, perhaps not fully comprehending what was happening or what was said. Doctors at the hospital where they had been kept under observation overnight said that they spoke a mixture of Arabic and French.

Officially the children had been released by the Abu Nidal group at the request of the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, and had arrived by boat from Lebanon to be handed over in Tripoli to French government officials.

However, the drawn-out drama of their release, announced on Christmas Day in Beirut by an Abu Nidal spokesman, was played out entirely in Libya and *Le Monde* yesterday was only one of the French newspapers to denounce the "cynicism and hypocrisy" of the Libyan leader's "humanitarian" gesture.

Mme Valente, aged 31, her two children, her Belgian lover, his brother, wife and two children were captured on board an old fishing boat in the Mediterranean in November, 1987. The Abu Nidal group announced it had picked them up off the Lebanese coast and was holding them because

they were "Israeli spies" — an accusation strongly denied by Israel.

According to press reports, the group was probably originally captured by Libyans rather than Palestinians. This assumption would involve Colonel Gaddafi directly in the business of hostage taking and confirm his strong links with Abu Nidal.

The French Government stated yesterday that it had, in fact, been negotiating with Colonel Gaddafi for the past six months to secure their release.

Earlier, M Charles Pasqua, the former Conservative Interior Minister, had apparently tried to upstage the Socialists by sending his Middle-East negotiator, M Jean-Charles Marchiani, to Tripoli with M Bette on Tuesday.

M Roland Dumas, the present Interior Minister, said to beware of besydbodies and hinted that this private opposition initiative had held up the children's release. Belgian authorities have been keeping a low profile on their negotiations for the Belgians' release.

Moscow take steps to curb activities of co-operatives

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

The co-operative enterprises which have begun to enliven the Soviet Union's lamentable services sector will have their activities curtailed by a Council of Ministers' decree published yesterday.

The new regulations were introduced without the now common public discussion and without warning.

Co-operatives in future will not be allowed to make or sell firearms, explosives, alcohol and most jewellery. Nor will they be able to produce films or videos, and will be able to sell them only under contract with a state enterprise. The same will apply to book and magazine publishing.

The activities of medical co-operatives are also circumscribed. They are banned from all diagnostic work and obstetrics and from treating cancer and venereal diseases. Co-operative schools, too, are forbidden. Restaurants — one of the largest co-operative groups — will have to abide by existing rules on hygiene and food additives.

Some of the restrictions,

concerned with the treatment of disease, hygiene in restaurants and the production of firearms and explosives, are understandable.

Others, including those dealing with the manufacture and sale of jewellery, will curb some of the most lucrative co-operative businesses. Jewellery and alcohol are two areas where the state would lose most tax revenue if the co-operatives were to become too successful.

The restrictions on medical co-operatives have been the subject of public controversy, with the Doctors' Council and the Minister of Health, among others, opposing the provision of diagnostic services by co-operatives, despite the long queues at state clinics.

The restrictions on sales of sound and video recordings and publications will displace those who had hoped that the spread of co-operative ventures would gradually make censorship redundant. The regulations come after a spate of press criticism of the standards and prices of co-

operative goods and services. Tradition and envy have combined to make those who can afford to use co-operatives extremely unpopular with those who cannot.

The have-nots, who are in the majority, complain that co-operative enterprises are simply a legalized form of private enterprise or black marketeering, and there is just enough supporting evidence to make their argument convincing.

Co-operatives are disliked by many officials, partly for ideological reasons, but also because they complicate the already complex application of rules for running shops and services.

Would-be "co-operators", as they are called, object about the bureaucratic obstacles in their way. Despite this, more than 10,000 co-operatives are registered in Moscow alone. As well as restaurants, there are co-operatives producing, selling and running everything from fashion design and dress-making to building services and public toilets.

Judge named Minister by scandal-wary Takeshita

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Mr Noboru Takeshita, Japan's Prime Minister, yesterday went outside the world of politics to find his second Justice Minister in a week, after the man he chose in Tuesday's Cabinet reshuffle was found to be tarred by the country's Recruit financial scandal.

He has put his faith in Mr Masami Takasugi, a former Supreme Court judge. Since Mr Takasugi is not a politician, he cannot have received any controversial political donations.

The Recruit scandal has forced Mr Takeshita to sacrifice two senior ministers in three weeks. The loss of the first was unfortunate; the second seems careless.

The fiasco has banished any doubts that the six-month Recruit affair is about to go away. More heads are expected to roll. It has also drowned Japan's new Cabinet in suspicion and mistrust.

Mr Takasugi, 60, was sworn in as Justice Minister, with a brief to clean up Japanese politics and rebuild fraying confidence in Mr Takeshita's Administration, before he was cleaning out his own desk instead.

His 60-hour stay, the shortest in Japan's postwar history, ended when it was revealed he had been financially supported since 1976 by Recruit, a then small but pushy information and property group which appears to have helped almost anyone it thought might one day be in a position to return the favour.

Recruit sold its shares cheaply to MPs, civil servants and businessmen — including an aide and a relative of Mr Takasugi — in one of the most spectacular cases of influence-peddling even for a society used to such things. The public, once shocked by their rulers' greed, is now angry at how glibly tens of thousands of pounds are funnelled into influential pockets.

Mr Hasegawa, aged 76, made his first mistake when he boasted to reporters after his appointment that he was free of Recruit's taint, the second when he dithered for a day before quitting.

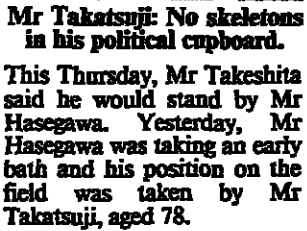
His fall is particularly embarrassing for the Prime Minister, who is fast losing his

reputation as a diligent behind-the-scenes power broker. His reshuffle on Tuesday was trumpeted as a new chapter for Japan, bringing in ministers untainted by the Recruit affair. Three-quarters of the new 20-man team consisted of new faces.

Even worse, Mr Hasegawa was chosen because he was known as a "Mr Clean" who would ensure justice was done in the Recruit investigations, wherever they might lead.

A month ago Mr Takeshita swore he would stand by Mr Kishida Miyazawa, then his Finance Minister, whose questionable dealings in Recruit shares sparked opposition calls for his head.

Within a week Mr Takeshita buckled, trading Mr Miyazawa for the opposition's co-operation in getting some unpopular tax Bills passed before the end of the year.



Mr Takasugi: No skeletons in his political cupboard.

This Thursday, Mr Takeshita said he would stand by Mr Hasegawa. Yesterday, Mr Hasegawa was taking an early bath and his position on the field was taken by Mr Takasugi, aged 78.

The new appointee, a noted law expert, told reporters he had no skeletons in his cupboard.

Having been so badly wrong-footed, Mr Takeshita must now be wondering where it will all end. The bad news about his new Justice Minister was followed on Thursday night by the revelation that three other members of his new Cabinet had also received donations from Recruit. They included Mr Keizo Obuchi, Chief Cabinet Secretary and a close confidant of the Prime Minister.

Aids row students seize professor

Peking (Reuters) — Fifty African students accused of carrying the Aids virus boycotted classes at an east Chinese university and kidnapped a professor in the latest incident between blacks and Chinese, student sources said yesterday.

The incidents in Hangzhou followed weekend clashes between African students and Chinese in Nanjing, 150 miles to the north-west. The city saw four days of anti-African protests by thousands of Chinese who took to the streets chanting insulting slogans.

An African student in Hangzhou said by telephone that the Africans at the Agriculture University began their classroom strike on Monday

after a long row over college attempts to bar Chinese from socializing with them.

"Chinese were being told the Africans all had Aids and that they were not allowed to visit their dormitory," he said, adding that most of the Africans were male and some had Chinese girlfriends. He said university officials refused to discuss the ban.

Similar incidents on Chinese campuses in the 1980s have been sparked by socializing between Africans and Chinese women.

Foreign students and other long-term foreign residents in China must prove they are free of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome on arrival in the country.

Fireworks kill 11

Bacoor, Philippines (AP) — An explosion at an illegal fireworks factory destroyed five houses, started a fire and killed at least 11 people in this town north of Manila. Police said more than 20 people were injured in the blast, which blew the roofs or walls off 10 other homes. About 10 people were making fireworks and sparklers in one of the houses when two barrels of powder ignited. Nine of the dead were inside a cluster of five houses, including the suspected factory. Two similar accidents last year killed 15 people.

Seamen saved

New York (Reuters) — Three unidentified seamen were rescued in heavy seas and two bodies were retrieved after their Cypriot-registered ship, Lloyd Bermuda, with a crew of 11, capsized about 200 miles east of here.

Marcos rites

Honolulu (Reuters) — Deposed Philippine President Marcos, aged 71, was rushed to a Honolulu hospital with heart trouble and a supporter said a priest had given him the last rites.

Greens' blot

Hobart (AFP) — Greenpeace, the environmental group, is the target of an investigation into the spillage into Australia's Derwent River of 50 gallons of diesel during the refuelling of its ship.

Jobless paid

Budapest (AFP) — Hungarians will become the first Eastern bloc workers to receive unemployment pay from January 1, based on 50 to 70 per cent of previous pay.

Mars mission

Moscow (AFP) — The Soviet space probe Phobos-2 is expected to enter the orbit of Mars in January and move closer to the planet in April, Tass said. This was in spite of US reports that the probe was in serious trouble.

Drink menace

Pomona (AP) — A Californian man with 10 drunken driving convictions, who lost his licence for the offence in 1983, has had his bail set at \$250,000 (about £147,000) in a new drunken driving case.

Punjab bomb

Delhi (AFP) — Four people were killed and two seriously injured when a powerful bomb, blamed on Sikh extremists, exploded on the Sikh holy city of Amritsar in India's northern state of Punjab.

Contra release

Tegucigalpa (Reuters) — Honduras has handed over 44 Nicaraguans to Sandinista authorities as part of a group of 104 released by US-backed Contra rebels last week.

What 1989 holds for the world

UNITED STATES

Michael Binyon

The Bush Administration, which takes office on January 20, comes in with hopes for world peace brighter than they have been for a long time. But the domestic situation is precarious. President-elect George Bush must focus as a priority on the budget deficit, defence spending and related vital economic issues, as well as a range of pressing social concerns: health, drugs, poverty, education and homelessness.

Overseas, the US concern will be to keep the movement towards peace on track — the pull-out of Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan and the subsequent tricky task of preventing anarchy or the triumph of Iran-style fundamentalism there, the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and the Vietnamese Army's exit from Cambodia.

There must be swift movement in the Middle East to take advantage of the new opening to the Palestine Liberation Organization. But the US must brace itself for a showdown with Israel over the peace process.

In Central America, Mr Bush will quickly distance himself from the zealous Reagan commitment to the Nicaraguan Contras, and will try to play down the US role by strongly supporting regional peace efforts.

There will be a summit with the Russians, probably in the late spring. The US will press for a swift conclusion to a chemical weapons treaty, but strategic missile talks will move forward slowly. And America will take a tough line at the Conventional Security Talks, which will be difficult and protracted.

Defence will be a main concern for the new Administration. Mr Bush must make early choices on weapons systems, and decide how to cut the bloated Pentagon budget. He will probably cut the number of MX missiles and reduce the number of Midway-class missile submarines, or a combination of both. But the \$68 billion (£38 billion) Stealth bomber programme will be the main victim — possibly postponed. There will be further US pressure on the Nato allies to shoulder a greater share of spending.

SOVIET UNION

Mary Dejevsky

This will be the year in which many of the chickens let loose by President Gorbachev in his first three years in power come home to roost.

The key date is March 26, when nationwide elections will be held for the new Congress of People's Deputies. These have been billed as the Soviet Union's first democratic elections in which there will be more than one candidate for most seats.

The reality may be more disappointing, as vested interests and a complicated voting system combine to restrict the introduction of new faces.

Conflicts among the different nationalities will continue to be high on Mr Gorbachev's agenda. A scheduled Central Committee meeting has raised hopes in the Baltic states of more political and economic autonomy. In the Caucasian republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, where central control is already enforced by troops, the shadow of disputed Nagorno-Karabakh is unlikely to fade. The Central Asian republics, too, could erupt in 1989.

Abroad, the key date is February 15, when Soviet troops are to complete their withdrawal from Afghanistan.

To the east, the spring should see the first Sino-Soviet summit for more than 30 years, while to the west Mr Gorbachev will reinstate his postponed visits to Cuba and Britain. If the momentum of superpower relations is maintained, 1989 will see the first Gorbachev-Bush summit.

Similarly, 1989 is likely to witness some acrimonious exchanges over the controversial

As nationalist conflicts cause further problems for Moscow and the budget deficit plagues Washington, Times correspondents predict some of the tough choices facing governments around the world in the year ahead.



Leaders in the limelight are, from left, President Mitterrand of France, Miss Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's Prime Minister, President Gorbachev, President-elect George Bush, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, and President Pinochet of Chile.

issue of "workers rights".

Brussels has been calling for a directive that would enable countries engaging in cross-frontier mergers to register under European company law, thereby bypassing the need to register under the differing and often conflicting laws for member states.

The scheme will require companies to grant workers some degree of participation in decision-making.

EAST EUROPE

Roger Boyes

Eastern Europe, never the most peaceful region, is entering a period of high risk as the postwar Soviet empire crumbles.

Romania and East Germany, resisting the Gorbachev revolution, will have leadership crises this year. East Germany is particularly sensitive since there is real pressure for change from below on Herr Erich Honecker, aged 75.

The ailing President Ceausescu of Romania is pushing through an unpopular policy of bulldozing thousands of villages. This may be the year of transition as the limits of his power are becoming evident.

Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia are sitting on the fence, waiting for Mr Gorbachev to stumble or to succeed; this will be a year of economic stagnation for them, but there will be more aggressive exporting and more openness towards the West.

The real risk takers are Poland and Hungary, which are trying to run faster and faster to keep up with the expectations of their people. This will be the year that the Polish Government talks to the Solidarity leader, Mr Lech Walesa.

Hungary is galloping into the new world, with talk of a multi-party system and much else. Inflation will exceed 17 per cent and there is a prospect of high unemployment.

Other variables: an integrated Western Europe will emphasize the backwardness of the East and stir up further unrest; the political implosion of neutral Yugoslavia will become a political factor in the rest of the Balkans; and debt-servicing will be a problem everywhere.

Nationalist rows between Hungary and Romania already defy diplomatic solution. Can Moscow assume a new role, not as an occupation force but as an honest broker, regulating the disputes of its allies?

Finally, will Mr Gorbachev survive the year? The Soviet allies have now put their money on the gaming table; the new year will be the one during which the roulette wheel stop spinning.

JAPAN

Joe Joseph

This will be the year in which the world realizes just how rich Japan has become. Now many gaps when a Japanese buys an impressionist masterpiece at auction, but they will buy even more next year. And buildings, too.

The bonds between Japan and America will certainly strengthen further in 1989. But Japan is not self-sufficient enough or internationally-minded enough to take over the reins of the Western alliance and become the leader of the free world.

How it goes about exercising this financial power will depend on how it copes with next year's big emotional jolt — the expected death of Emperor Hirohito.

Talk that the monarch's death will rekindle right-wing sentiment seems wide of the mark. But for 63 years he has provided the Japanese with a reference point during their bafflingly swift climb to wealth. Japan's reaction to his death will say much about how it shoulders its new responsibilities as a superpower with international ambitions.

Next year's big political upset will come from the stock market scandal unfolding around Recruit Cosmos, a pushy property company that sought to buy favours from influential politicians and bureaucrats with cheap shares.

The scale of the Recruit scandal has taken Japan's breath away. As the country comes under closer scrutiny from allies abroad, many will ask whether the time has come to do something about the easy intimacy between business and politics in Japan. Some big heads could roll.

Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Prime Minister, will spend much of the year answering calls from Japanese for a lifestyle more suited to the country's affluence. They ask why they work so hard, take so few holidays and live in such cramped houses.

On trade, the renewed boom in Japan's exports will increase friction with Tokyo's trading partners. Europe will also become worried at the pace of Japanese investment in Europe ahead of the Single Market in 1992.

ISRAEL

Ian Murray

Israel faces a race against time in the year ahead. Ruled by a new but divided Government, struggling to control a foundering economy, it is isolated internationally as

never before in its 40-year history.

Its well-equipped and highly trained Army has been held to a draw by children and youths throwing stones and petrol bombs. Years of intensive lobbying in the corridors of world power have been neutralized by one speech and a press conference given by its arch enemy, Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Israel's best hope of quick salvation from all these difficulties could be a terrorist outrage which would prove beyond a shadow of the world's doubt that the PLO was not a worthy partner for peace negotiations and that Mr Arafat was incapable of controlling it. Sadly that hope could be realized for the extreme rejectionists among the Palestinians are certainly capable of carrying out an atrocity to sabotage Arab recognition of Israel.

Failing that, however, the Government has to make some hard choices quickly. If the status quo drags on, Israel's integrity will be undermined with every report of new casualties.

Israeli men, women and children have been killed and injured by the petrol bombers and the stone throwers; but some 50 Palestinians have died violently for each Jew in the past year, and it will be difficult to persuade world opinion that stone throwers facing armed soldiers really are terrorists.

The international conference that Britain along with most of the world believes is the best way of opening direct negotiations remains a non-starter. Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, would lose all credibility domestically if he accepted it.

Talks "referred" by the US and Russia could stand a better chance with President Gorbachev in office.

SOUTH AMERICA

Michael Llanos

It will be an election year in South America in 1989. Presidents are to be voted into office in infant democracies in Argentina (in May), Brazil (in November) and Uruguay (also in November).

Even Chile might join the democratic fold — if President Pinochet allows clean presidential elections. General Pinochet, who must call polls before mid-December, 1989, will run as a candidate.

In Argentina, the ruling Radical Party's candidate, Senator Eduardo Angeloz, is likely to defeat the Peronist candidate, Senator Carlos Menem, the man who pledged to embargo British Crown prop-

erty in Patagonia in retaliation for the Falklands conflict.

In Brazil, democracy is likely to survive the 1989 coup rumours but President Sarney's ruling Brazilian Democratic Movement Party coalition, despite yet another "plan" to curb inflation, is likely to lose to Senator Leonel Brizola of the centre-left.

Uruguay will relive memories of human rights violations under the last military Government. In an April plebiscite, citizens look set to narrowly approve the democratic Government's 1986 law pardoning officers for these crimes. Presidential elections follow in November, with the ruling Colorado Party likely to score another narrow victory.

Regardless of who wins or loses, the elections themselves will strengthen these fledgling democracies after a year marked by the economic problems of foreign debt, inflation and stop-go economic policies.

EAST AFRICA

Andrew Buckoke

Nobody is expecting much improvement in Africa's condition in 1989. Dictatorial Governments and overloaded bureaucracies will continue to combine with low investment and education to prevent significant development in most countries.

The Western Governments which pour millions into Africa's leaky bucket are beginning to feel less guilty about their colonial pasts, however, and are putting pressure on African Governments to spend aid more effectively.

There were signs at the end of 1988 that progress towards ending the Sudanese civil war was possible. One party in the fragile coalition signed a peace accord with the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Mr Sadiq el-Mahdi, the Prime Minister, and fundamentalist northern Muslims may be hoping to do a deal with the Ethiopians which would end the Soviet-backed Government's support for the rebels, and force them to make concessions, in return for closing Sudanese access routes for secessionist rebels in the northern Ethiopian provinces of Tigré and Eritrea.

The alternative to peace is the continuation of the famines that have devastated the region. The fact that at least three million people will have to be fed in and around southern Sudan and northern Ethiopia in 1989 is for the first time this decade almost entirely due to war. Good rainfall in both regions should have guaranteed bumper harvests — and did so in areas which were undisturbed by fighting.

Homes to become castles in bleak end to an era

From Charles Bremner, New York

The looming end of the millennium seems to be casting a gloomy shadow over the business of year-end predictions in the United States. Future experts with varying qualifications have been busy this week painting a rather bleak picture of life as they see it at the turn of the century.

Though there is some disagreement — notably on whether a cure will be found for Aids and how much drugstore robots will take on — scientists and science-fiction writers largely concur on an overall pattern. People, they agree, will be older and living more solitary lives, working often from an electronically fortified home and rarely venturing out for entertainment.

Few of the experts, however, are predicting the kind of apocalyptic upheaval that mankind traditionally expects at the end of a millennium.

Subscribers to the disaster scenario mainly say that from California and "New Age" believers, are already planning their December 1999 get-away to the deserts, islands and high places. More optimistic and commercial types are busy renting space in

the Empire State Building, around the Egyptian pyramids and elsewhere to see in the year 2000.

The consensus among the scientists and writers is that people will be increasingly getting away from it all by "cocooning" at home. "Many homes will be protected by relatively inexpensive laser shields and artificial intelligence home-security systems," said the World Future Society, a respectable Washington institution that advises business.

Crime will be high, with fraud in the main category as felons learn to manipulate the systems on which the world will increasingly depend, it said. Computers may help save lives, though, the society says. "Future wars may be fought out on supercomputers. A military leader may capitulate after receiving an unfavourable read-out rather than undergoing a bloody battle."

According to Mr David Brin, the author of several award-winning science-fiction works, the streets will be full of elderly people protecting themselves in public by carrying small video or radar-like devices that would beam back to a home computer everything going on

around them. Over the past week, several computer experts have predicted the convergence by the end of the century of video recorder, television, hi-fi, telephone and personal computer.

One device will provide all functions and probably also run household robots and appliances. Several experts are predicting breakthroughs in superconducting materials. These, they say, will help ward

People will be getting away from it all by 'cocooning' at home

off an impending electricity shortage and revolutionize computers and public transport.

Isaac Asimov, one of the writers who risked their forecasts in *Omnis* magazine this week, said computers and robots would "decentralize" the world, leaving more time for people to be creative.

Ray Bradbury, the author of *Fahrenheit 451*, thinks that by the end of the century "we will stay home with our own video sets, our

own popcorn, our own hot dogs, our own friends". As a result of the video revolution, "all our concepts of filmmaking are going to be torn apart and put back together", he said.

According to Lewis Shiner, another author, society will have broken down into small self-help networks by the end of the century with people bartering services among friends, evading taxes and "living pretty much sequestered in their own homes. As a consequence, we'll see merchandise like steel doors and shutters that will enable us to shut out the world and make the home more of a castle."

The first signs of this process have started in Miami in recent weeks, where frightened residents in several suburbs have barricaded their streets to prevent outsiders from entering.

Not all is bleak, though. The experts predict strides in bio-engineering and nanotechnology — the ability to manufacture goods on microscopic scale — that will preserve health both mentally and physically. "Genetic manipulation is seen to make organ transplants seem terribly old-fashioned," says

Robin Cook, the author of *Coma*, and *Mortal Fear*, two science fiction hits. "It will also cause most of modern medicine, perhaps even doctors, to become obsolete."

Several scientists predicted breakthroughs in the understanding of viruses that will cure Aids, while the World Future Society thinks Aids will have had "the impact of a world war" by the year 2000.

Predictions can be dangerous, as the Future Society said in its latest magazine. The organization tries to stick to trends rather than specifics. Nothing looks more Victorian, it points out, than Jules Verne's visions, or more 1950s than the world of Dan Dare. The video-phones, portable jet-packs and superatomic monorails of the postwar visions have yet to materialize.

While seers of the past did predict telephones, atomic bombs, aircraft and television, no one managed to forecast ball-point pens or plastics. However, if you believe Edward Bryant, a science fiction journalist, the Walkman portable stereo was envisaged in 1657 by Cyrano de Bergerac in his *Comical History of the Moon*.

First shots of the phoney peace

As the 50th anniversary of the Second World War approaches, Asa Briggs sketches the strange no-man's land in British thinking between Munich and September, 1939, when Chamberlain's appeasement policy lay in tatters and he at last called the nation to arms

THE VIEW FROM WHITEHALL

The label "phoney war" now sticks firmly to the period from the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939 to the start of the German Blitzkrieg on the West in May 1940. No equally memorable phrase has ever been attached to the period from the Munich Agreement in September 1938 to the declaration of war a year later.

This was surely the period of a phoney peace, a period of shifting moods ranging from euphoria to despair, a period with curious conceptions of what a war would be like, and false prophecies that there would be no war.

At the end of 1938 Chamberlain told his countrymen that "a year marked by such underlying good will is one which leaves behind it no grounds for pessimism". And the following March he explicitly rejected conscription, and raised the spirits of members of the Club when he stressed that he foresaw no crisis on the horizon: the dangers of a German war were lessening every day "as our rearmament expands".

But just one month later on the introduction of conscription, Chamberlain remarked that the present "could not fairly be described as peacetime".

Earlier in the year his favourite adviser, Sir Horace Wilson, had tried to cut the phrase "we are on a peace-time footing" out of an industrialists' report on the progress of the rearmament programme. Its "repeated use" in the report as an explanation of the limited rate of progress, Wilson observed, implied that "it might be a good thing to put the country on a war footing and we do not want to do that just yet".

The one really remarkable contemporary phrase of the period, the "Golden Age" envisaged by Sir Samuel Hoare, the Home Secretary, referred to a time that was not just yet. In Hoare's vision if only the "big five" in Europe (three dictators, one of them a Communist, and the two leaders of "the democracies") could only get together, the peoples of Europe would not only be free from the nightmares that haunted them and from expenditure on armaments that beggared them but would raise their standards of living "to heights we have never before been able to reach".

Hoare's language suggests in retrospect that he was living in the wrong times. More immediately serious for him, he was speaking at the wrong time. Five days later on March 15 German troops entered Prague, and Bohemia and Moravia were declared a German protectorate.

The big five were not disposed to transform themselves then or later into "the eternal benefactors of the human race", and Hoare himself was to be placed in the dock in the pages of *Gulliver Men*, the best-seller of 1940. Chamberlain was to be there too.

But in early 1939 pessimism was the dirtiest of words: according to Hoare it was spread by "panic-mongers" whom he called "jitter bugs". With even more insensitive timing than Hoare's, *Punch* produced a cartoon "The Ides of March" on the same day as German troops marched into Prague. It showed John Bull in bed waking up with a start to see "War Fear" disappearing through the window. "Thank goodness that's over", he cries, and the caption reads "Pessimists predicted 'another major crisis' in the middle of this month".

In such images and in the thinking that lay behind them, there was an element not so much of illusion — a word much used in 1939 by Churchill and by Sir Norman Angell — as of delusion. Chamberlain's letters to his sister usually tell us more about his state of mind than his public speeches. In mid-February Chamberlain wrote that "we have at last got on

top of the dictators", as devastating a judgement as his much-quoted claim in April 1940, just before the phoney war became a real war, that Hitler had missed the bus.

There seemed to be no element of delusion in rearmament, however. At first it had been thought of as a deterrent. Now it was beginning to be called war preparation. Significantly in the *Ideas of March* cartoon in *Punch* John Bull is shown wearing a steel helmet and on the table by his bedside there is a paper called *Rearmament Programme*.

In January every citizen had received a copy of a 48-page booklet, *The National Service Handbook*, described by Chamberlain in a broadcast as "a scheme to make us ready for war". It was a sufficiently important document for fun to be made of it — particularly its listing of "reserved occupations" and its plentiful abbreviations, like WVS (Women's Voluntary Service), and ARP (air-raid precautions). Thus, A.P. Herbert, cleverest versifier of the year, wrote:

"Old poets sang of English soil
And how we kept it free,
But now our tongues refuse to toil
We call it ARP."

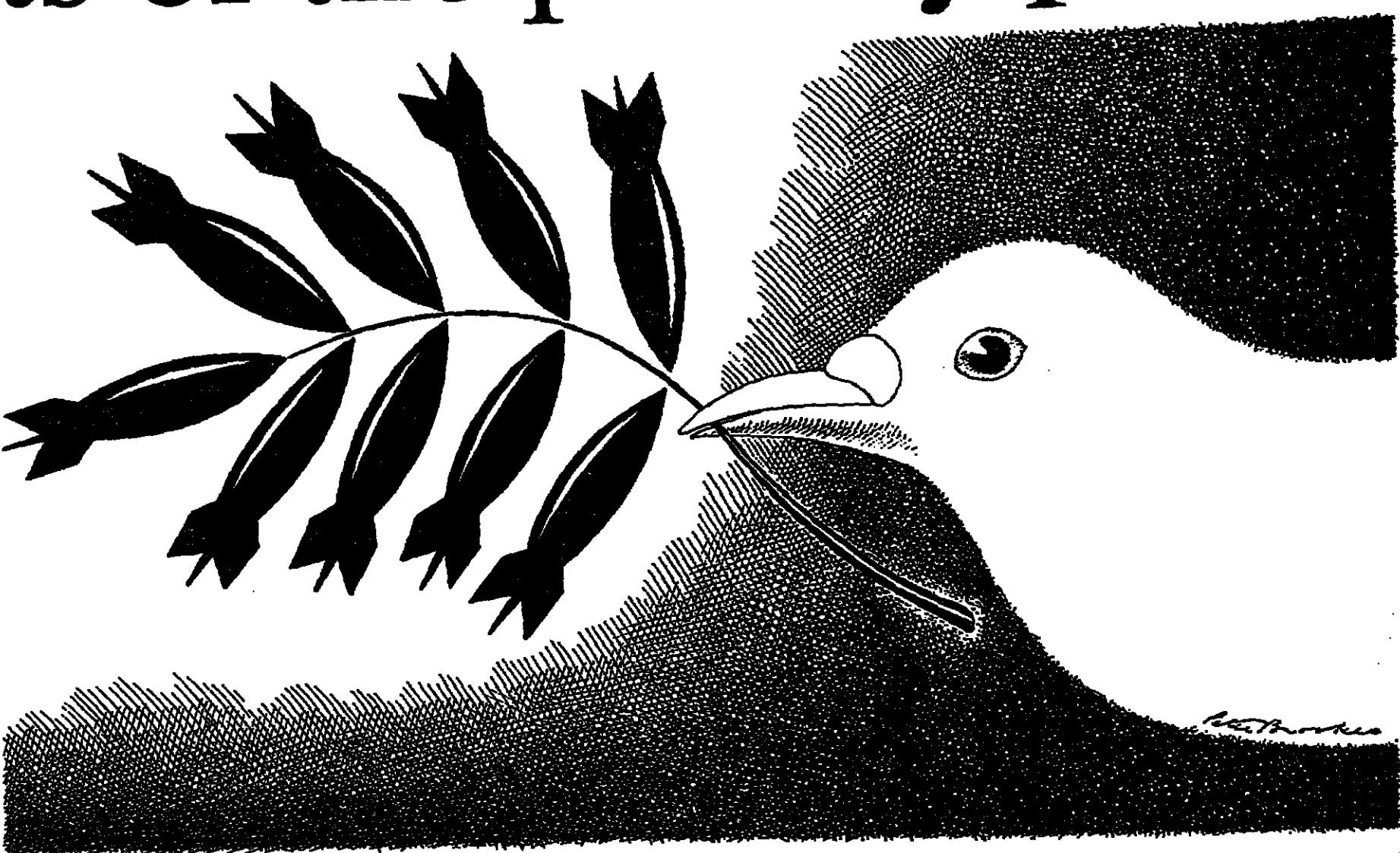
You could make fun of ARP and harp, as Arthur Askey did in the most popular show of the year, *Band Waggon*. Nonetheless, joining the ARP or the AFS (Auxiliary Fire Service) was an invitation to toil, backed by increased national funds. How to organize those who joined remained a matter of argument, that a less angry argument than that concerning how many and what kind of shelters to provide.

It was left to Norman Tiptaft, the Chairman of the Finance Committee in Chamberlain's Birmingham, to emphasize in stormy March that "the international position does not mean a blank cheque for ARP — not even from petty cash". Tiptaft was fortunately not in charge of the Army, although there was an element of illusion, not delusion, in some of the discussions on future Army strength. Captain Liddell Hart, always active behind the scenes, did not hesitate to expose it.

On March 17 Chamberlain made the strongest speech about Hitler that he had ever made. It included words that became famous, although they had been added after the speech was prepared, "Any attempt to dominate the world by force is one which the Democracies must resist". They were words that were loudly cheered on the spot. A corollary was that "every aspect of our national life must be looked at again". By the end of the month *Punch* had changed its tune also: it included a second cartoon "St George and the Dragon" with the caption "The Smoke Screen Clears".

Nonetheless, March was not the end of a chapter, the smoke screen did not clear. Nor was every aspect of national life reviewed. The months of the phoney peace after March were often as confused as the months before. Hoare continued to think in terms of deals, as did Wilson. Chamberlain, too, continued to trust what had become a familiar combination of rearmament and negotiation: "A safe Stroudhold our God is still", albeit a German tycoon, and the introit "Blessed Be the Peacemakers" were complementary items in a BBC Daily Service as late as August 28.

Rearmament had proceeded, if in many items slowly. The first Minister of Supply, for example, had not been appointed until July and the first conscripts were not called up until the same month. As far as negotiation was concerned, it had proved possible to talk to the French, but when it came to the crunch in negotiation with the Soviet Union from May 27 onwards, there was neither enough realism nor enough enthusiasm on the British side to dispose of difficulties in the way of a practical outcome. Indeed, some new



difficulties were created. The Russo-German treaty of August 23 really did mark the end of a chapter, though, fortunately, not of a book.

Chamberlain, like Wilson, laid great stress on the normal. "What you want is a defensive force sufficiently strong to make it impossible for the other side to win except at such a cost as to make it not worthwhile". Only reluctantly and in the light of slowly accumulated experience did he come to realize in 1939 that abroad he was not dealing with the normal.

Chamberlain continued to put patience before courage, and even after German troops had invaded Poland on September 1 there were so many desperate "ifs" in his four-minute speech in Parliament on September 2 that he deeply disturbed a by now suspicious House of Commons, most of whose members had cheered him loudly after Munich.

The thought of "another Munich", once again "putting off" the crisis, was now anathema. When Britain went to war on the next day Chamberlain not surprisingly admitted that "everything he had hoped for, everything that he had believed" during his public life had "crashed into ruins".

THE VIEW FROM THE COUNTRY

How far did Chamberlain in his post-Munich hopes and fears represent the hopes and fears of his fellow countrymen? His formidable — and feared — chief whip, Captain David Margesson, completing soon after war began an unpublished "candid portrait" of him, believed that he did:

"The ordinary Englishman sees in him an ordinary Englishman like himself, one who has been in business in a small way and has made a little — not much money; one who has been happily married and brought up a family of which the world knows little, one who

wears the same business-suit every day, the black coat and vest, the striped trousers, the laced boots and carries the same umbrella whether he is walking on a cloudless morning in the park with Mrs Chamberlain (which he does every day at the same hour) or whether he is flying across Europe to meet a dictator.

Everything depended, of course, on who the ordinary Englishman was. Not all the people who might have deemed themselves ordinary were Chamberlainians. Some were not keen on umbrellas. Nor were all extraordinary people plotting for "the return of Churchill". Some mistrusted his judgement. Political opinion in England — and in Britain — was divided in 1939 — and divided within parties as well as families.

For Chamberlain and his supporters the main divisions were geographical. To them there were obvious contrasts between "the provinces" and London. Sir Neville Henderson, British ambassador in Berlin, told Goering on February 18 that any idea of a preventative war carried no weight with "the great mass of British public opinion". Its only appeal was to "a section of the intelligentsia and of London opinion as distinct from the country".

It was a distinction that appealed to Chamberlain as much as it did to Henderson. He knew that he had considerable support in London, but Labour's flag flew over Herbert Morrison's County Hall, and the celebrations of fifty years of the London County Council did not compare in his mind with the celebrations of the centenary of Birmingham's incorporation a year earlier.

In the provinces he conventionally forgot the Conservative *Yorkshire Post* and the Liberal *Manchester Guardian*, which were equally critical of his policies, and when he tried to locate the intelligentsia he thought first of Oxford, not of Cambridge, where he had even more critics.

"Wherever I go", he wrote in March after German troops had entered Prague, "the crowds at the

station, along the routes in Guildhall, in the Opera House give me an astonishing welcome."

Guildhall and the Opera House may have been solid, but "the provinces" were not. Leaving on one side newspaper leading articles, and Harold Nicolson's alternative perspective that the real contrast was that between the provinces and Mayfair and Cliveden, there were profound economic and social differences in the country, most of them rooted in the earlier experience of the 1930s and long before that.

The geography of unemployment — and of comfort — made not only for differences but for divisions. It was relatively easy to pooh-pooh unemployed demonstrations in London and in Birmingham where unemployment was relatively low, but it was difficult to dismiss the "special areas" as areas that were permanently doomed.

In retrospect, at least, one particular London demonstration in February 1939 had point. A group of unemployed men burst their way into Grosvenor House where Sir John Anderson was attending the Allied Brewing Trades Dinner and lay down on the floor crying "we want work on ARP". At the end of the year, after three months of war, the total number of unemployed was still 1.4 million.

It was foreign affairs, however, that preoccupied little groups of Chamberlain's most resolute critics, often working behind the scenes and forging or seeking to forge strange alliances, sometimes addressing mass rallies. The biggest ever organized by the Left Book Club took place at the Empress Stadium, Earl's Court, in April 1939. Lloyd George was on the platform with Sir Norman Angell, Sir Stafford Cripps (expelled earlier in the year from the Labour Party for his Popular Front activities) Ellen Wilkinson, still a defiant member, and Harry Pollitt of the Communist Party.

The Soviet ambassador not only welcomed members of these groups to his embassy but added

to them guests like Harold Nicolson, who did not appear on the major platforms. J.M. Keynes was sympathetic, too, to what he called "the movement", although he said it would be better "if Mr Herbert Morrison and all the others would join it too".

Later in the year, in June, the Liberals were incensed when *The Times*, resolutely pro-Chamberlain throughout, refused to print a letter from Lady Violet Bonham Carter criticizing it for attacking their leader, Sir Archibald Sinclair. He had attacked Chamberlain's foreign policy and demanded a government of national unity. They were even more incensed when it refused to print a letter from the veteran Liberal journalist A.G. Gardiner criticizing the newspaper for its censorship. The idea of a government of national unity had won substantial support inside the parliamentary Conservative Party at the end of March.

Such manoeuvring left the Labour Party, the main opposition party, in an odd position during the phoney peace. It also cast the spotlight on Churchill. The Labour Party was still divided, preoccupied, as so often in its history, with its own internal manoeuvring. For some of its members on the left, Herbert Morrison was Chamberlain's "recruiting sergeant". For others, like Hugh Dalton, the continuing enthusiasm for disarmament among a group of Labour MPs was as dangerous as Chamberlain's philosophy and practice of appeasement.

When the Labour Party joined with the Liberals in opposing conscription, their action is said to have provoked Leon Blum, the French Socialist leader, to cry "Mon Dieu", in the circumstances the gentlest of cries.

Arnold Toynbee tried to capture the mood when he surveyed the world in 1939. "Were not the Conservatives in favour of armaments on the understanding that they were never to be used and the interventionists in favour of using them on the understanding that they were never to be provided?"

It was generally believed that the Labour Party could not win a general election for it had lost ground in the last local elections. George Orwell described its chances even as part of a left combination as nil. This made Churchill's position, which changed remarkably between Munich and the outbreak of war, a matter of interest to others as well as to himself. At the beginning of 1939 he felt himself isolated, reflecting in the intervals of studying the Wars of the Roses on the war that was to come. He had access to significant information, but remained out of power until the outbreak of war.

This was despite the pressure of his friends, of that same significant group of politicians of all parties who believed that the priority was to end appeasement — Harold Laski came on Chur-

chill's side in July — and of substantial sections of the Press, including the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Daily Telegraph*, to have him drawn in. He himself wrote with a sense of drama in popular newspapers like the *Daily Mirror* and the *New York Times*, and the popular and lively weekly *Picture Post* placed him in the spotlight as early as February: "the greatest moment of his life", it claimed, "was still to come".

While Chamberlain was resisting all the pressures to draw Churchill into his Cabinet, Churchill, too, was having a mixed reception in "the provinces", particularly when he spoke on the need for compulsion — as at Cambridge — or on the need to act rather than react. There were people who believed he was making war, not preparing for it. His name figured prominently at by-elections, notably that in North Cornwall, where the independent candidate T.L. Horabin went so far as to call him "the only possible prime minister in this hour of danger". Yet he had critics within his own constituency party, particularly before March 1939.

There were many people, too, after March who did not share his passionate interest in foreign affairs and who did not care to believe that "hours now count": they were looking for ways of escape. There are far fewer statistics, fortunately perhaps, to test opinions, than there would be today, although in May a *News Chronicle* poll claimed that 56 per cent of the respondents wanted Churchill in the Cabinet and 26 per cent were against.

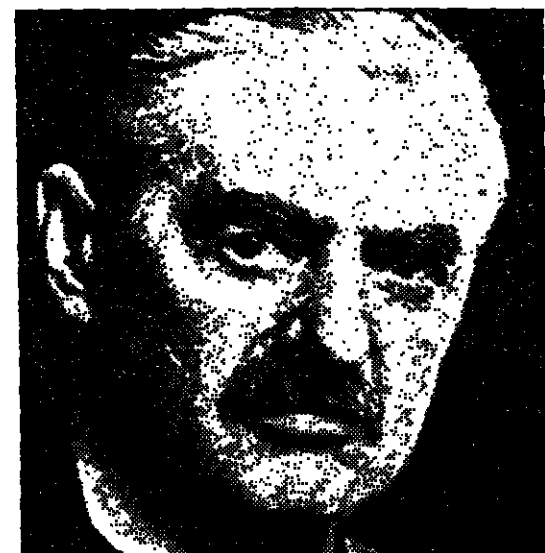
In the absence of statistics there was always, of course, Mass Observation, which, following its fascinating study of Britain on Coronation Day 1937, produced a *Penguin Special* in 1939 simply called *Britain*, a prelude to a series of wartime studies. It revealed great depths of ignorance and lack of interest in international affairs. It was not only Conservative backbench MPs who merited a remarkable attack by Harold Nicolson on March 14 when he warned that their ignorance "in regard to foreign policy is as terrifying a prospect as a gardener driving a Rolls Royce".

This was an image projected from above. Writing from below, a girl in Lancashire complained in September 1939: "My nerves have completely gone; we've been waiting a whole year not knowing whether there will be a war or not. I want a knock at Hitler".

A housewife, Nella Last, whose wartime diary has been published, took a simpler line. When war broke out, she wrote her own epitaph on the phoney peace:

"Well, we know the worst. Whether it was a kind of incredulous stubbornness or a faith in my old astrological friend who was right in the last crisis when he said 'No war' I never thought it would come. Looking back I think it was akin to belief in a fairy's wand which was going to be waved."

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Lord Briggs is Provost of Worcester College, Oxford.



Chamberlain: 'The longer the war is put off the less likely it is to come at all'



Churchill: 'The only possible prime minister in this hour of danger'

TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

This column has always been known for its dedicated approach. It espouses the philosophy that sport is the most important thing in the history of the universe, and that nothing else matters. In accordance with these proud traditions, this week I present my sporting awards for 1988 — for there is, after all, little enough of the year left. Same wrestler of the year: yes, this column was giving you sumo long before Channel 4. Fatahaguro, a 24-stone grand champion, became sumo wrestler of the year when, on being reprimanded for bullying his stable-mates, he allowed his stable-master's wife in the face, pushed an 88-year-old man, and was expelled from the sport — the first time this has ever happened in the elite division. Team of the Year: the soccer nightmare XI selected by reader Michael Stebbings. It lines up: Schumacher; Dennis, Berry, Hunter, Roberts; Souness, Bremner, Stiles, Whiteside, Jordan, Steve Williams. Managed, of course, by Alan Ball. Punch of the year: the one thrown by Mike Tyson in the dressing-room before he fought Larry Holmes. He punched his dressing-room wall, leaving a hole 10in x 12in. Second-best punch of the year:

thrown by American female jockey Julie Krone at male jockey Miguel Rujano. "It was a real good one," she said. Book-that-never-was award: Peter Lush's diary of the Pakistan Shakoor Raza tour. Lord's forbade publication. Best meeting of sport and politics: a Ronald Reagan spokesman on Eddie Edwards. "He'd be welcome at a White House briefing. He'd fit right in... I don't know what I'm doing either." Best name of the year: boxer George Foreman called his third son George. His first son is also called George, as is his second. Sporting accident of the year: Paul Grant of Kentucky got so excited when watching the Olympic ice hockey that he accidentally shot himself in the hand. "I tensed up and the gun went off," he said. The sort of thing that could happen to anyone. Mescalier Christian of the year: this year, as always, the award goes to the Rev Andrew Wingfield-Digby, who instructed a bowler to bowl 56 wides in a minor counties match which his side, Dorset, actually won. In his book, *A Loud Appeal*, published this year, he told us: "The cross of Jesus Christ, if I may

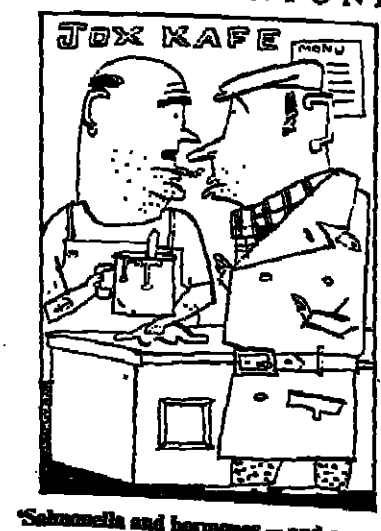
say so reverently, is the ultimate back pass in cosmic history." Sporting science breakthrough of the year: Professor Rolf Boorman of East Germany told us: "It is often assumed that top sportsmen must give up sexual activity to improve their athletic performance. I think this is wrong." Upset of the year: the World Boomerang Cup was won by the United States. Best Cornish cricketer of the season: the St Gluvias player Eidine Baptiste, a former West Indies fast bowler. Cricket team of the year: England, obviously, but England of 1981. The appointment of the final captain of the summer of 1988, Graham Gooch, the South African Breweries XI superstar, meant that for the fourth and fifth home Tests of 1981, England took the field with no fewer than eight past and future

captains. This equals a record held by Pakistan. The captains were Brearley (captain), Boycott, Gower, Gatting, Botham, Embury, Willis and Gooch. International cricketer of the year: Richard Cunningham, formerly of Tewin Irregulars, who won international honours when he played for Czechoslovakia against Poland. Philatelic heroes of the year: this year Jamaica issued stamps in honour of the country's bobsleigh team, which competed in the Winter Olympics. The gallant lads made one descent of the run on their heads. Book promotion of the year: the TCCB, on behalf of Mike Gatting's ghosted autobiography *Leading From the Front*. Best-treated athlete of the year: Naim Suleymanoglu, the weightlifter who defected from Bulgaria and won a gold

medal for Turkey at the Seoul Olympics. He travelled home in the prime minister's private jet, was given a flat worth £30,000, a car, and £600 a month for life. Netball bootlegs of the year: Bora from Dar Es Salaam were suspended from the African Netball Confederation after a series of incidents that culminated in the beating-up of a referee. Best bowling of the year: J. Brough, for Hampstead Cricket Club under-11s v Mill Hill. Indeed, these are probably the best bowling figures of all time: 0.3 overs, three wickets, no runs. Transfer of the year: Oldham rugby league club sold Jeff Edwards for £1,000 and three turnstiles. Match of the year: the Christmas Eve spectacular between Westfield and Chobham in the Danair Combined Counties League. Chobham scored their first win in two seasons with a sensational 1-0 triumph. Note: both teams were back in action on Boxing Day. Both lost. That's more like it. Best reason for failure: Sueli Pereira dos Santos, the Brazilian javelin thrower, who neglected her training after she had posed naked for *Playboy*. And so this column marches fearlessly

on towards 1989, carrying the banner for Eddie Edwards, Chobham, under-11 cricket, and everything else that makes sport important and worthwhile. Vive le sport, and losers everywhere.

BARRY FANTONI



Salmagundi and herman — and a cuppa



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE DRAGON'S LEAP

The Chinese would doubtless remark of 1988 that the Year of the Dragon is proverbially auspicious. That part of it which falls in the Western calendar year has, despite natural and manmade disasters in Armenia, Sudan and elsewhere on a fragile and still-fractious planet, produced changes which may yet transform the world more than any year's events since 1945.

Two stand out. The first is the reduction of regional conflicts, with prospects for further progress. The second, and connected, change is the contagious desertion of socialist economics, begun late in the last decade in Western and developing countries. It has now reached the Soviet Union and will have far-reaching and long-lasting effects, irrespective of whether the current perestroika targets are met or not. A few dinosaurs apart — Rumania, Bulgaria and Cuba the most notable — there is virtually global accord that state ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange produces misery for the masses.

The momentum towards settlements in Afghanistan, the Gulf, the Western Sahara, southern Africa and the small chink of hope opening in the Middle East have, of course, owed nothing to fortune. The overwhelming development of 1988 has been the transformation wrought in international affairs by the Soviet Union's determined courting of good, stable relations with the United States.

Although the motor force of this change has been Mr Gorbachev's revision of his strategic priorities, the consistent determination shown by leading Western nations has played its own significant part in undoing the mistakes of the 1970s. Soviet calculations for the future can always count on some volatility built into the conduct of democracies and some internal Western differences of outlook. But those calculations must now also include an awareness that the benefits of new-found firmness will not lightly be thrown away.

Other factors have been at work in a year which, with 14 conflicts still raging without a sign of stopping in the Third World, it would be an overstatement to call the Year of Peace. But the fact that the Soviet Union was, overtly and in practice, no longer in the spoiling business made the peace-brokers' tasks immeasurably easier. That its new stance is solidly founded in pressing national necessity is ground for optimism. A Soviet Union bent on modernizing its economy is not necessarily a friend of the West. Hard unsentimental bargaining will be needed on East-West arms control.

It is nonetheless an improvement if domestic priorities constrain it to behave more like

one. The widespread conversion to what President Reagan called the "magic of the marketplace" may matter more, in solid practical terms, to the majority of the world's people than these geopolitical developments. More flexible, pragmatic and modest government will in the long term make them richer. But the transitional phases of economic reform are painful, above all for the poorest.

Excessive state intervention — and borrowing — may have been largely responsible for the dire predicaments of many Latin American and African countries. But the austerities involved in the roll-back of the state and adjustment to sustainable growth patterns, when rapidly growing populations need schools and jobs and health care, are putting severe strains on Latin America's democracies. And Africans have lost a quarter of their purchasing power in the past decade.

It is more than time for the innovative look at global debt which President-elect Bush (while ruling out several of the more innovative options) has promised. The United States must begin at home, because if its budget deficit is not brought under control in non-recessionary fashion a sharp rise in US interest rates could well cancel out any palliatives for Third World debt likely to be agreed. Meantime, the industrialized countries' poor performance in tackling agricultural subsidies and other forms of protectionism in 1988 should at least inspire in them some modesty in lecturing other governments, teetering by comparison on a political and economic knife-edge, about the virtues of market-orientated policy reforms.

The prospects for sustained economic growth in the West look better than for years. But the sting in the dragon's tail is that extreme poverty elsewhere breeds war, dictatorship and environmental degradation. The political conditions for healing some regional sores, in Kampuchea or Ethiopia for example, are better than they have been for years. But others, in Latin America and Africa, have inescapably economic dimensions. Domestic reforms will need international support.

It is no use relying on hope or horoscopes for the ushering in, in the last year of this decade, of a global version of Mr Bush's vision of a "kinder and gentler America". Building on the greater stability achieved in 1988 will require solid, co-operative, political spadework. It is right to feel more optimistic as we enter 1989, but the paradox bequeathed by 1988 is that the new fluidity in global politics will demand watchful, imaginative statecraft if it is to be exploited.

SAVING THE CHILDREN

The Government has at last learnt the lesson that frustrated parents anxious to protect their children have always known. Teenagers do not take kindly to being lectured, particularly by those in authority. It has now decided to tackle the growing problem of drug abuse by enlisting the help of young men and women able to relate to teenagers, bridging gaps between them, the school and their parents.

The new drugs task force set up by the Department of Education will meet in February to formulate policies for the 100 drug co-ordinators, whose work will cover alcohol and solvent abuse, and the spread of Aids linked to drug abuse.

The new group will, for the first time, be able to formulate policy as well as implement it, writing the agenda with the minister and his officials. One of its first tasks will be to find ways of encouraging reluctant parents to work with the school.

The drugs co-ordinators, many of them ex-teachers in their mid-20s, will certainly receive the support of the schools but it is by no means certain that they can expect similar help from all parents. Social problems, whether they be drug abuse, vandalism, or arson, tend to be linked to homes where there is little or no discipline. Success will only come if school and home join forces.

The chances are that once one recalcitrant parent has been pulled on board, others will

follow. But in too many cases a failure of discipline at home is matched by a failure of discipline in the classroom. The switch of power from the local education authorities to heads and school governors should result in tighter control of the schools. It does not take much to change the ethos of a school: many have improved dramatically with, for example, the appointment of a new head teacher.

The Department of Education has promised that the Education Reform Act will lead to schools where pupils can learn in a friendly disciplined atmosphere of calm and enthusiasm, without fear of the teacher or of their fellow pupils. To succeed, it must enlist the parent power which it describes as the cornerstone of its reforms — even if that means making parents responsible for damage caused by their children.

Traditional anti-drugs campaigns, tending to use scare tactics or sermons and run in isolation from the connected problems of drink and glue-sniffing, have failed. An approach based on preventive work carried out locally could succeed in reducing the proportion of youngsters trapped by drugs and drink.

But it needs to be put on a less ad hoc footing. At present the drugs co-ordinators are paid by Educational Support Grants on annual contracts. The Department of Education should work out with local authorities an agreement which puts them on a firmer basis.

1989 ALMANAC

January: Following the recent OECD report on Britain the people of Gibraltar ask if they can change their mind and join Spain after all; Mr Gorbachev mistakes Mr Kinnock for President Najibullah of Afghanistan; Channel Four announces that its new breakfast programme will be hosted by Princess Michael of Kent.

February: Britain returns to work after the Christmas break; the latest monthly trade figures show a deficit of £5 billion — a sure sign, says the Chancellor, that British industry is booming; the England cricket XI leaves for a short winter tour of the Maldives Islands.

March: Nigel Lawson declares a "stay-as-you-are" Budget and is hailed as the most imaginative Chancellor since Sir Geoffrey Howe; English teaching is abandoned by the Government on the grounds that it is now a dead language; feminine hearts are sent fluttering by the news that Mr Papandreou is to visit this country for a check-up.

April: Mrs Currie returns to the Government as junior Minister for Sport, and Chelsea hooligans appeal to the European Court of Human Rights; the Prince of Wales appears on *This is Your Life*; a new musical opens based on the life of Mr David Mellor.

May: Mr Gorbachev attends a Nato summit and is mistaken by President Bush for the Prime Minister of Iceland; the monthly trade deficit tops £10 billion which shows, says Mr Lawson, that "we're really taking off at last"; Hong Kong asks if it could join China as soon as possible.

June: Mr Kinnock refuses to lead an "alliance of the left" and suggests trying Mr Edward Heath; a cricket XI from the Maldives Islands arrives to start a short rebel tour of Britain; the Birthday Honours include a hereditary peerage for Mr Eric Hammond.

July: *Sunday Sport* leaks a Government plan to seek a short-term loan from the Falkland

Islands; a by-election in Surrey is won by the Scottish Nationalists who were not even standing; a report that Mr Arthur Scargill is to join the EETPU is angrily denied by Lord Hammond of Bromley.

August: Miss Koo Stark, the actress, is admitted to the Gorsedd at the National Eisteddfod of Wales, for her services to the arts; Mr Cecil Parkinson says that he has no ambition to be Chancellor, causing Mr Lawson to return urgently from holiday; snow falls in Torquay prompting an inquiry into the Met. Office.

September: England's football team loses 1-0 to Vanuatu, although Mr Bobby Robson says: "We made all the chances"; the Government applies to reschedule its debt to the Falkland Islands; Princess Michael becomes a BBC newscaster for an undisclosed sum.

October: Britain is criticized by the Commonwealth for going around with a begging bowl; after the fight between Mike Tyson and Frank Bruno is postponed for the eighth time, an attempt is made to arrange a match between Mr Bruno and Mrs Tyson; the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to Father Patrick Ryan.

November: The Booker Prize is won by the Duchess of York with a racy tale of sking folk; the monthly trade deficit slips to £20 billion, due to "the unseasonably mild weather" says the Treasury; the Maldives withdraw their invitation to the MCC to tour there this winter.

December: *Sunday Sport* is named Newspaper of the Year for its coverage of economic affairs; Mr Eddie Edwards is voted Sports Personality of the Year for personifying the spirit of Britain in 1989; after the latest OECD report the Falkland Islands asks if they can change their mind and join Argentina instead, after Britain has paid back their money.

Halt to building as travel aid

From Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP for Brent North (Conservative)
Sir, Your front page piece (December 27) on the planned Government investigation into the problem of travel in London states "The study will say that unless action is taken, the congestion now plaguing the inner city will extend as far as outer suburbs such as Wansford, Putney, Highgate, Wembley and Ealing".

The congestion has already hit my constituents in Wembley. I am receiving ever more numerous complaints about the blockage of the A40 road into and out of London and about the continued and ever more exasperating breakdowns and delays on the Tube services from Wembley to central London.

The quality of life and the productivity of London can only be preserved by urgent action to make public transport more efficient and by Government legislation to stop the continued building on almost every piece of garden and every playing field in my constituency and in the neighbouring areas, which not only destroys the local "green belt" which are of concern to my constituents but adds every month thousands more commuters to travel on the already over-stretched road and Tube services. Yours faithfully, RHODES BOYSON, House of Commons, December 28.

Driving in fog

From Mr F. E. McWilliam
Sir, Driving up from Cornwall to London, via the A303, on Boxing Day, conditions were such that I needed dipped headlights and intermittent wiper all the way until near London.

It was interesting to note that even in the occasional fog patches half the cars were on side lights, while perhaps one in nine or one in 10 had no lights at all and when conditions were really poor, using one's rear fog lights provoked flashing from the car behind.

I fear this reflects normal road behaviour and not just the holiday season and could have a lot to do with the accident rate. Yours faithfully, F. E. McWILLIAM, 8A Holland Villas Road, W14, December 27.

From Mr H. Holmes
Sir, I believe there is a simpler explanation to "Motorway madness" than that put forward by Dr Holt (December 27).

Drivers are normally aware of their speed by relation to roadside objects. When these disappear in fog, drivers have no framework on which to base their judgement of speed.

A similar situation arises when driving in heavy traffic on a three-lane motorway. If traffic in all three lanes is travelling at 60-70 m.p.h., after a while one tends to move one's frame of reference from the stationary objects at the side of the road to the adjacent moving vehicles, especially if one is in the middle lane. As the relative speeds of vehicles in the three lanes are very small indeed, one's awareness of actual speed is lost.

For this reason, the slogan "Keep your distance" loses its value. More appropriate would be an exhortation to keep checking your speedometer. "Watch your clock" perhaps? Yours faithfully, G. HOLMES, 9 Green Meadow, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, December 27.

From Dr J. G. Bourne
Sir, A good driver keeps far enough behind the car in front for him to pull up gently, even if the car brakes violently; but that distance is nothing like enough if the car runs into something and stops dead. Hence the multiple pile-ups.

Yours faithfully, J. G. BOURNE, Melstock, Nunton, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

School test faults

From Mrs G. J. Hatherley
Sir, The Croydon Standardised Test (report, December 9) claims to be the prototype for the Government national curriculum assessment. There are, however, very severe drawbacks to it.

I teach a class of children aged six-plus to seven-plus in Croydon. The youngest was six on August 28; the oldest was seven on September 2 — a great difference, considering children of that age. They all started school in September, 1986. In April, 1989, they are all due to take the same test, irrespective of development, ability, experience and background. "The test" tests children on matters they may not have understood or experienced. The fact that the school in which I teach obtains very good results does not comfort me as an educator.

Although one is not supposed to do so, it is very difficult not to teach "to the test" if you know it by heart. It certainly does not encourage teaching children according to individual ability and need. Yours faithfully, G. J. HATHERLEY, 16 Brighton Road, Coulsdon, Surrey.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

Myth and reality in Christian belief

From the Archdeacon of Croydon
Sir, Your leading article (December 24) on the strange persistence of Christmas in Western civilisation left me most dissatisfied. Its main thesis was bluntly conveyed in the sentence, "Yet at its heart is a myth." But most Christians believe that at its heart is an event.

In his Prologue St John writes: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." That is both a statement and an interpretation. The statement is that Jesus Christ, Mary's son, was born at a particular time and in a particular place and was a real human being. The interpretation is that in this child resided the eternal God.

A large part of the New Testament is not a simple narration of facts, but an interpretation of facts. Yet that does not give it the status of "myth", since the interpretation is not imposed upon the events but is drawn from them, as the primitive Church sought to bear witness to their proper significance.

The idea that the Christmas story is a myth owes a lot to Sir James Frazer who, in *The Golden Bough*, succeeded in demonstrating that belief in a virgin birth, far from being something peculiar to Christianity, was widespread in early times and described it as "one of the last lingering relics of primitive savagery." Yet many people now believe that Frazer's demonstration, which was intended to discredit Christianity, can easily be turned to its support.

For the fact that the idea of virgin birth was not totally strange to men's minds some 2,000 years ago may help to account for the Incarnation, as presented to us by the Bible and the Church. By myth men's minds had been prepared to entertain reality. What until then

had been myth God made fact at the first Christmas.

Yours sincerely, FREDERICK HAZELL, St Matthew's House, 100 George Street, Croydon, Surrey, December 25.

From the Reverend C. J. L. Bennett
Sir, There are two problems with your leading article, "Gift from the past". First, no reasons or evidence are given for why the virgin birth of Christ is a myth, except for what is claimed to be the current opinion of scholars and theologians.

There is no reason why the Creator should not intervene in his creation, and the nature of the whole gospel record — indeed the very existence of it as it stands — is evidence that he has done so. So what is so unintelligent or *passé* about believing in miracles such as the virgin birth?

Secondly, even when he has thrown away what he no doubt regards as the mythical shell of the Christmas message, the writer gets the kernel 100 per cent wrong theologically. He says, "Christmas is about optimism, and about faith in the race's capacity to rise above itself." The Christian message about man's fall and redemption through Christ the Lord, Christ who is human and yet also from eternity divine, is that mankind is totally incapable of rising above itself. Therefore God came down in the person of the eternal Son to raise us to himself.

The application of it all is therefore not, "Cheer up and pull yourself together", but "Cast yourself as a sinner upon the divine mercy." Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER J. L. BENNETT, 128 Vicarage Farm Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.

Iran executions

From Lord McNair
Sir, The Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany recently visited Tehran. The Khomeini regime predictably saw this visit as conferring a cloak of respectability upon itself and made propaganda accordingly.

The facts that Herr Genscher will undoubtedly have raised the question of human rights with the Iranians and that the Bundestag has since passed two resolutions condemning the abuse of human rights in Iran are, of course, unknown to the Iranian public.

Now we learn that in January the Foreign Minister of France is planning his own visit to Tehran. Hoping that our common membership of the European Community permits a British citizen to comment on these diplomatic initiatives, I respectfully suggest that they are of questionable wisdom.

We shall never know how many of its political opponents of various sorts the Iranian Government has executed since it reluctantly agreed to a cease-fire in its war with Iraq. Amnesty International

Nuclear disarmament

From Group Captain P. W. Johnson
Sir, It is not necessary to subscribe to the view that the abolition of nuclear weapons is the most urgent and effective road to peace, to echo Mr John Biffen's hope (report, December 16) that the Cabinet will start to "think about the unthinkable". Nor need one be convinced by Dr Lewis (December 21) when he claims that the answers to his loaded question prove that there is no alternative to present policies.

There are other "unthinkables" in the political sense which may be more profitable to pursue than the sterile controversy about nuclear weapons, which will be solved only after an international reshuffle. This the superpowers will have to countenance if they are to achieve their joint objective of reducing their expenditure on arms.

Their uncertainty how to proceed should not inhibit us in Europe from thinking about some form of political disengagement as the most viable route towards the end of the arms race. The widespread distrust of the statistics bandied about in "megaphone diplomacy" reinforces this view. Yours faithfully, P. W. JOHNSON, Middle Corner Cottage, Hempton, Deddington, Oxfordshire, December 23.

Spirit of Christmas

From Mr Joseph Samson
Sir, The Chairman of the Post Office can be justly proud of his staff in dealing with the millions of items posted over the Christmas holidays, but I do not think he can claim much credit for the quality of the service, with which the customer is more concerned. A letter posted in central London on December 14 was received by me on December 22 — eight days to travel 13 miles, and so-called first class at that.

Fifty years ago, before we enjoyed the wonders of computers, microchips and post codes, one could generally rely on any letter reaching its destination anywhere in the country within 24 hours of posting. That was something to be proud of. Yours faithfully, J. SAMSON, 23 Pethworth Road, Harrow, Middlesex.

From Mrs Wendy Meredith
Sir, I recently came across a reference to Spug — the Society to Prevent Useless Giving. It was apparently formed in America,

Gap in law on child abuse

From the Editor of Community Care
Sir, You are quite right to state in your leading article "A lost child" (December 22) that the new Children Bill will immensely improve the legislative framework for dealing with child abuse. However, if the Government has shown itself committed to legal reform, it has yet to convince anyone of its willingness to give resources to help make social work more effective.

It is a lesson still to be learnt from past child-abuse inquiries that one tell-tale sign of the possibility of abuse taking place is the refusal of the parents to allow the social worker access. However, whether a male social worker would have been less intimidated, as you claim, cannot be known. Three male social workers have been among the seven who have been murdered during the course of their duties in the past four years.

Certainly, an approach by the social services department to the police would have been useful. But a more effective means of dealing with such situations would be the child-assessment order for the production of the child at a clinic for medical examination, as recommended in Mr Louis Blom-Cooper's investigation of the Kimberley Carlisle case.

Alas, the Government has not thought fit to include such an order in the Children Bill. We must hope that the appalling death of Doreen Mason, on which your leading article commented, will prompt the secretary of state to think again.

Yours faithfully, TERRY PHILPOT, Editor, Community Care, Carew House, Wallington, Surrey, December 27.

has the names of 300 but fears the total may be in thousands. Most of those executed were already serving long prison sentences and were simply hauled out of their cells to their deaths.

Iran's Chief Justice, Abdolkarim Mousavi Ardebili, in a Friday prayer sermon broadcast on Tehran Radio, said there was no longer any need to send mujahideen members for trial — and get involved in a cumbersome paperwork, adding "the people say they should all be executed without exception". Asked whether executions served any purpose, President Ali Khamenei explained: "Executions are for carrying out divine orders. They may or may not solve a problem."

Does not this frenzied and inhuman conduct remind us of the very last days of Hitler's Reich? And, if M Roland Dumas feels that his proposed journey really is necessary, can we at least be assured that he too will raise his voice against this barbarism?

Yours etc, JOHN MCNAIR, House of Lords.

Father's footsteps

From Mr T. S. Sampson
Sir, Mr Burton (December 24) has produced a remarkable record of three generations of English parsons who held unbroken tenure of one benefice for 119 years. Ministers of the Church of Scotland were even more tenacious: the Mitchell family, as an inscription in the church testifies, ministered to the parish of Aberlemno in unbroken succession from Thomas (1715-1750), through Andrew (1750-1794) to grandson James (1794-1841) — a total of 126 years.

They would be pleased to know that their parish is still flourishing and in good heart. Yours faithfully, T. S. SAMPSON, Mains of Balgavies, By Forfar, Angus.

From Mr R. R. Feilden
Sir, Between 1780 and 1912 the living of Mayfield was held by four members of the Kirby family in direct succession from father to son. The longest of the four incumbencies, that of the Reverend Henry Thomas M. Kirby (1844-1897), remains a record in the history of the benefice.

All four vicars were local landowners and alumni of St John's College, Cambridge. Yours faithfully, R. R. FEILDEN, Allfarings, West Street, Mayfield, East Sussex.

prior to the First World War, with a view to de-emphasizing the commercial aspect of Christmas. (Presumably, it was abandoned through lack of support).

Given the time of year, and with the help of a suitable acronym, I wondered if we might take a lead from our American friends and form a society with similar aims over here. I thought of calling it Scrooge — the Society to Change the Rules to Only Offering Gifts at Easter.

Yours faithfully, W. MEREDITH, Penlee, 39 Lower Kings Avenue, Exeter, Devon.

From Mr J. W. Bainbridge
Sir, Being horseless and having only a nodding acquaintance with one chestnut, William, I wonder if the walking stick, with a unique built-in horse measure, that I received on Christmas morning, holds the promise of being the most unused present of the year? Yours faithfully, JACK BAINBRIDGE, Ashleigh, Castle Terrace, Berwick upon Tweed, Northumberland.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM

December 30: The Queen was represented by the Duchess of Grafton (Mistress of the Robes) at the Funeral of the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire (formerly Mistress of the Robes) which was held in St. Peter's Church, Edensor, Derbyshire this afternoon.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Barbados from February 8 to 11 to mark the 350th anniversary of the Barbados Parliament.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will visit Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates from February 12 to 17.

The Duke of Edinburgh, International President of the World Wide Fund for Nature, will visit the Nigerian Conservation Foundation from February 15 to 19.

The Princess of Wales, Patron of the London Symphony Chorus, will attend a performance of Verdi's *Requiem*, at the Barbican Centre on February 16.

Appointment

Latest appointments include: Mr Alastair Muir to be Chairman of Toc H.

Clifford Longley

Making peace with the dissenters

Twenty years after the publication of Pope Paul VI's encyclical on birth control, *Humanae Vitae*, dissent to its teaching continues to be a fertile source of controversy and anguish in the Roman Catholic Church internationally. The year just passed saw both celebrations of the anniversary of the encyclical's publication and further demonstrations of opposition and dissent, but also just the first glimpse of an approach that could ultimately begin to resolve the division.

At an international gathering in Rome in November, attended exclusively by bishops and theologians who support the encyclical, there was much praise for Pope Paul's "prophetic vision" in publishing it. The general view was that contraception, and the pill in particular, had proved in the intervening years to be a malign influence, leading to marriage breakdown and promiscuity and even contributing to the spread of Aids.

And the encyclical's condemnation of the separation of procreation from sexual intercourse was seen as having been fulfilled by the later development of *in vitro* fertilization, which in such circles is viewed with even more alarm than contraception itself.

Some speakers at the conference admitted that the encyclical's arguments still lacked the sort of detailed support from moral theology that the Pope at the time had asked for. The question was beginning to be asked why this was so. And one of the explanations offered, which was evidently becoming widely accepted, was that conventional moral theology still relies heavily on what are termed pre-conciliar methods and procedures, meaning those pre-dating the Second Vatican Council, whereas *Humanae Vitae* itself was a new departure. Thus the rejection of *Humanae Vitae* on theological grounds is actually, in this view, the more conservative position. What is needed, therefore, is a new moral theology which gives the encyclical the support it needs.

Opponents of *Humanae Vitae* will greet this as a damaging admission of the weakness of the encyclical's case,

and as an attempt to change the rules of the game having been beaten under the rules as they are. It certainly raises new difficulties. The strongest argument for *Humanae Vitae* has always been that it was in line with Catholic tradition, a restatement of the church's consistent teaching down the ages, and the only answer the Pope could give, therefore, that preserved the authority of that tradition. But pre-conciliar moral theology is very much part of that tradition too.

It is also true that much of what has been said in the past about the interpretation and implications of *Humanae Vitae*, by those Catholic bishops and theologians who accepted it, has been based on this same conventional or pre-conciliar moral theology. But read without these preconceptions, it becomes a rather different document. It has always been assumed to mean that any and every married Catholic who used a contraceptive device for whatever motive was guilty, unless his degree of responsibility was reduced, of mortal sin. For that is what comes from applying conventional moral theology to the basic judgement the Pope made in *Humanae Vitae*. It is also the heart of the dissent for many Catholic couples who use contraception as sure as they can be that they are not guilty of sin; and if the encyclical says so, then it must be wrong.

What proportion of the whole they are is largely unknown, but in a country like England it is revealing that very few clergy care to preach on contraception, and very few bishops care to make an issue of it, suggesting that the level of dissent is either very tiny or very large. Such surveys of opinion as have been conducted point to the latter. The decline in the numbers going to Confession, and the decline in the Catholic birth rate, suggest the same. The long term effect of *Humanae Vitae* has been to reduce the authority of the church in the eyes of such dissenters, for if it is regarded as fallible on one such matter it could be so on other matters too.

As happened at the time of the

encyclical's 20th anniversary, such views erupt from time to time in the correspondence pages of the Catholic press in Britain, where they are usually accompanied by sincere expressions of distress that Catholics who think themselves loyal, or want to be loyal, have been driven into disobedience. Some even claim to have left the church over it. The more exaggerated claims in support of *Humanae Vitae*, including some uttered by the present Pope (such as his famous remark that those who used contraceptives were in reality "atheists") have only added to the depression. Ecumenically, full union between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church remains quite incredible if the rejection of contraception, resting on papal authority and little else, is regarded by the Catholic side as an acid test of Christian orthodoxy.

The theology to extract the church from this impasse does not seem to have been written yet, though it may have started to emerge in the treatment of the related issue of *in vitro* fertilization. This has broken free of the legacy of the old penitential manuals of moral theology, which existed primarily to guide priests on the gravity of the various sins they heard in the confessional box. It was a characteristic of pre-conciliar Catholicism to be excessively pedantic about what was or was not a mortal sin.

Perhaps *Humanae Vitae* was assumed too readily to be an instantly applicable supplement to such manuals, rather than a statement of principle whose implications remained painfully to be worked out and whose bearing on confessional practice was neither obvious nor the primary question. In other fields, such as social theology, the Catholic Church does not move in one step from general statements of moral principle to the simple attribution of personal sin; nor has it done so in its recent official statements on embryo experimentation. If the same change of perception were to occur with birth control, the church could at last make peace with the dissenters in its ranks, and they with it.

OBITUARIES

ERIC STRATHON

Expert witness in valuation cases

Eric Strathon, who died on December 26 at the age of 80, was an eminent chartered surveyor who was president of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in 1961 and served as a Crown Estate Commissioner and as a member of the Lands Tribunal.

He was one of the best valuers and expert witnesses in the country. Eric Colwill Strathon was born on February 20, 1908, and educated at Taunton School, of which he later became a governor. He entered the surveying profession in 1925 as an articled pupil to Mr. Wilfrid Hosking of Skardon Sons & Hosking of Plymouth. On completion of his articles he moved to London to join the firm of Turgood Martin & Eve and was elected a professional associate of the Chartered Surveyors Institution in 1929 and became an associate of the

Chartered Auctioneers and Estate Agents Institute in the same year.

In 1930 he joined Charles Gerald Eve as a senior assistant in the newly founded firm of Gerald Eve & Co. becoming a partner in 1934. In 1940 he was elected a Fellow of the Chartered Surveyors Institution and was chairman of the junior organization of the Institution for two years.

During these early years of the Second World War Strathon was deeply involved in the settlement of requisition of land and buildings for war purposes and war damage claims and was the author of *Compensation (Defence)* published in 1943. In the same year he joined the Royal Regiment of Artillery and served in India and at the headquarters of the 14th Army in Malaya, rising to the rank of major.

After the war he again became active in the affairs of the Institution, being elected a member of the council in 1951, a vice president in 1958 and president from 1961-62.

In 1962 he became the senior partner of Gerald Eve & Co. and during the 1950s and 1960s was much in demand as one of the leading expert witnesses on valuation matters, particularly in the areas of estate duty, land compensation, business disturbance claims and planning.

He gave evidence in the Lands Tribunal in many of the leading cases of the time. He served as a Crown Estate Commissioner from 1965 until 1969 when he retired from Gerald Eve & Co. and was appointed a Member of the Lands Tribunal. He served in this capacity with distinction until final retirement in 1980. His wife, Peggy, died in 1973. He is survived by a daughter and a son.

SIR JOHN STEBBINGS

Service to legal profession

Sir John Stebbings, a past president of the Law Society, died on December 30 at the age of 64, after a long illness during which he showed remarkable courage, refusing to stop working. As recently as December 20 he appeared before a taxing master on a matter which required his personal attention.

John Chalmers Stebbings was born on October 10, 1924, following Harrow and New College, Oxford, he qualified as a solicitor in October 1949. After articles with the Kent firm of Boys and Mawhood, he joined Mowll and Mowll of Canterbury and Dover.

Following two years in their Dover office, he moved to Payne, Hicks, Beach where he was senior partner for the ten years prior to his death.

Having been elected to the Law Society council in 1964, he became president in 1969 after serving on many of the

society's committees and as treasurer of the society between 1969 and 1975. He was a founder member of Holborn Law Society and was chairman of the Law Society's Charity from its foundation in 1974 until 1978.

In the legal world he was widely known and respected by both branches of the profession. He was a member of the Lord Chancellor's Committee on the Age of Majority between 1965 and 1967 in respect of which he wrote the *Minority Report* with Sir Geoffrey Howe.

He was knighted in 1980.

There can be few men who combined as he did an immensely busy working life and the devoted family life in which his friends were privileged to share with him and his wife Patricia.

What mattered to him was firstly his family and secondly his friends and clients, for



whom nothing was too much effort. In the same category came his charitable work, particularly Masonic charities, including a period of office as president of the Grand Lodge of Benevolence. He is survived by his wife, two sons and three daughters.

VASO KATRAKI

Greek engraver who won world acclaim

Vaso Katraki, the prominent Greek engraver whose work won her international acclaim including a bibliography prize at the Biennale di Venice in 1966, died in Athens on December 27, at the age of 74.

Whether on wood or stone, she had a talent for capturing the universal pathos of human suffering, drawing inspiration from the vicissitudes of her native land during the war, the occupation, and the tragedy of the civil strife that followed.

Born on July 5, 1914, at Aitoliko, a medieval town in western Greece, she studied painting and engraving at the Athens Polytechnic between 1935 and 1940 under Constantine Parthenis and other

prominent Greek artists.

She opted in favour of wood engraving, but later, as she looked for materials that would convey her expressionist trends more directly, she switched to coarse Cretan sandstone, using the tools of a sculptor rather than those of the engraver. It added a new intensity to her message in black and white.

At her first group exhibition in Athens in 1950 she showed woodcuts inspired from her wartime experiences in the resistance. However, in the early postwar years she reverted to the nostalgic portrayal of country scenes, especially life around the lagoons of her home town. When she switched to stone

it was to portray her more epic work about the struggle of the working people that reflected her political ideology. Her engravings were shown in Greece but also in cities as far apart as Peking and Sao Paulo. In 1965 she became an honorary fellow of the Florentine Academy of Design and won several foreign prizes.

Exiled on an arid island in the Aegean by the military dictatorship in 1967 because of her political leanings, she never missed an opportunity to continue her work drawing on pebbles and stones brought in by fellow inmates from the seashore.

She is survived by her husband, Dr George Katrakis, a son and a daughter.

REV ALAN THORNHILL

Priest and playwright

The Rev Alan Thornhill, who has died at the age of 81, was a friend of many Oxford undergraduates during the 1930s, both those of his own college, Hertford, where he was Chaplain, and of others throughout the university.

For a man of Thornhill's convictions and sensitivity there was much to do in Oxford in those days when consciences were stirred by the nation's high unemployment and another war was threatened by the rising power of Nazism.

Thornhill was eminent among those, both senior and junior members, whose clarity and cheerfulness were a guiding light to many who were seeking a way to combat their lives.

He went from Hertford to Wycliffe Hall in 1937, and then joined Frank Buchman in his wartime "You Can Defend America" campaign, continuing with him later in the work based on Caux in Switzerland.

While in America Thornhill

began writing plays which gained wide acclaim, the best known being *The Forgotten Factor*. Many were shown at the Westminster Theatre.

He was also co-author with Mr Malcolm Muggeridge of the play *Sentinel to Life* which tackled the subject of euthanasia.

During his last years he ministered at Mark Cross in Sussex.

His wife, Barbara, and a daughter survive him.

PHILLIP WHITTING

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, writes.

Phillip Whitting (Obituary, December 17) was a big man built like a bull. When he walked, with a purposeful and brisk authority, into the History VIII Room at St Paul's, he commanded respect and a little fear. His first approach to his students was to make you love history. His last was to bully the reluctant into doing it. Both worked in a quite magic way. He used, in the 1950s, what were then unconventional ways of stimulating an interest in history — we watched early films on

castle-building, we visited old churches, houses and castles on Saturdays. He seemed to all of us a much bigger figure. We wondered about his exploits as a pilot in the Second World War and how he won the George Medal in the Blitz with that quite incredible bravery that all bomb-disposal experts have to show.

He stamped his passionate love of the past on succeeding generations of boys at St Paul's from Max Beloff onwards. We were all very lucky to have come under the spell of a very great history teacher.

Sotheby's stage great New Year's Eve art show

MARK PEPPER



Susan Elliott of Sotheby's stands before a portrait of Sir James Barrie by Sir William Nicholson, to admire a marble bust 'Clytie' by George Frederic Watts. Both works appear today at Sotheby's, New Bond Street, in the largest exhibition in recent memory of 19th and 20th century European art.

Mr D.C.R. Cobbett and Miss B.M. Hetherington. The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.R. Cobbett, of Ashurst Wood, Sussex, and Bridget, youngest daughter of Sir Thomas and Lady Hetherington, of Linsfield, Surrey.

Mr R.M. Potter and Miss F.V. Pilkington. The engagement is announced between Roger, son of Mr and Mrs W.E. Potter, of Durweston, Dorset, and Fiona, daughter of the late Sir Richard Pilkington and of Lady Pilkington, of Cresswell Place, London.

Mr S.M. Allan and Miss S.E. Mathewson. The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of the late Mr Michael Allan and Mrs John Sparks, of Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey, and Susan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Mathewson, of Ilford, Essex.

Mr C.J. Burton and Dr R.M. Malet. The engagement is announced between Chris, eldest son of Mr Michael Burton, of Robin Hood's Bay, Yorkshire, and Mrs José Russell, of the Park, Nottingham, and Rosie, only daughter of Mr Kenneth Malet, of Woodside, Perthshire.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.B. Cockle and Miss C.E. Ashburner. The engagement is announced between James, younger son of the late Geoffrey Cockle and of Mrs Rosemary Cockle, of Wiltshire, formerly of Saffron Walden, and Catherine, younger daughter of the Rev David and Mrs Ashburner, of Uffington Vicarage, Oxfordshire.

Lieutenant D.J. Hunter and Miss P.M. Law. Mr and Mrs R.E.S. Law, Strawberry Hill, Peak, Hong Kong, have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their only daughter Patricia Margaret to Lieutenant David John Hunter, RAN, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.R. Hunter, Scots School, Bathurst, NSW, Australia.

Mr W.M. Trelawny and Miss A. Trencor. The engagement is announced between William, eldest son of Major Richard Trelawny, of St Martin, Helston, Cornwall, and Alison, younger daughter of the late Mr Noel Trencor and Mrs Trencor, of St Keverne, Cornwall.

Mr A. Hook and Miss S.P. Jennings. The engagement is announced between Anthony, only son of Mr and Mrs E.A.G. Hook, of Rainham, Kent, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R.G. Jennings, of Dulwich, London. Mr M.D. Howarth and Miss S.J. Leveridge. The engagement is announced between Neil, only son of Mr and Mrs Michael Howarth, of Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire, and Susan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Loveridge, of Hutton, Weston-Super-Mare.

Mr C.W. Haines and Miss M.V. Butler. The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr P.W. Haines and Mrs S.L.M. Markwick, of Eastbourne, Sussex, and Megan, only daughter of Dr and Mrs W.H. Butler, of Blethingley, Surrey.

Mr D.A. Gordon and Miss S.E. Adams. The engagement is announced between Alistair, younger son of Mr and Mrs D.R. Gordon, of Glasgow, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Adams, of Bishopbriggs.

Mr P.W. Jackson and Miss S.M. Cobb. The engagement is announced between Patrick, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Jackson, of Amersham, Buckinghamshire, and Sarah, younger daughter of the Reverend and Mrs Peter Cobb, of Magor, Gwent. Mr J.L. Kew and Miss J.M. Brown. The engagement is announced between John, elder son of the late Mr and Mrs H. Kew, of Belton-in-Rutland, and Jasmine (née Hart), only daughter of Mrs B.M. Hart and the late Mr A.A. Hart, of Kettering.

Mr J. McDermott and Miss J.J. Heron. The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs J.M. McDermott, of Haslingden, Lancashire, and Jacquelyn Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C. Horan, of Adderbury, Oxfordshire.

Mr J.H. Martin and Miss S.M. Bracher. The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R.J. Martin, of Colliers, Steep, Petersfield, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.A.W. Bracher, of The Lodge, Waterbury, Kent.

Captain T.D.E. Morris

The engagement is announced between Captain Timothy Morris, 7th Gurkha Rifles, son of Commander R.W. Morris, OBE, RN, and Mrs Morris, of Sidmouth, Devon, and Ann, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs M.G.M. FitzGerald, of Kingham, Oxfordshire.

Mr C.C. Neve and Miss S. Peaseley. The engagement is announced between Christopher, twin son of Major and Mrs R.W. Neve, of London, SW11, and Samantha, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J.H. Peaseley, of Swarndon, Hampshire.

Mr R.C.D. Senior and Miss H.J. Patterson-Knight. The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mr and Mrs J.G. Senior, of Dubai, UAE, and London, SW18, and Henrietta, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.D. Patterson-Knight, of Holybourne, Hampshire.

Mr M.P. Staheyer and Miss B. Seaford. The engagement is announced between Michael Peter, younger son of the late Mr Peter Staheyer and of Mrs Ann Staheyer, of Helions Bumpstead, Essex, and Rosemary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Stafford, of Wells, Somerset.

Birthdays

Today: Mr Douglas Anthony, CH, former Australian Deputy Prime Minister, 59; Mr Gavanvill Benn, publisher, 83; Sir George Blunden, deputy governor, Bank of England, 66; Mr Michael Bonallack, golfer, 54; Sir George Christie, chairman, Glyndebourne Productions, 54; Mr Stephen Cleobury, organist, 40; Air Marshal Sir Patrick Dunn, 76; Major-General J.D. Frost, 76; Mr Jack Hargreaves, broadcaster, 77; Mr Anthony Hopkins, actor, 51; Sir James Howie, bacteriologist, 81; Mr Ben Kingsley, actor, 45; Mr Peter May, chairman, selection committee, TCCB, 59; Mr Nathan Milstein, violinist, 84; Dr Valerie Piel, president, New Hall, Cambridge, 62; Mr Jean-Pierre Rives, rugby player, 36; Sir Joshua Rowley, Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, 68; Sir John Sainsbury, Clerk of the Parliaments, 54. New Year's Day: Dr Jack Birks, company chairman, 69; Professor Richard Bishop, vice-chancellor and principal, Brunel University, 64; Lord Colwyn, 47; Sir James Crane, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 68; Mrs Christine Crawley, MEP, 39; Sir John Dick, QC, 69; Mr Bill Keys, trade unionist, 66; Sir Albert McQuarrie, former MP, 71; Dr James Merriman, former chairman, National Computing Centre, 74; Mr James Moorhouse, MEP, 65; Colonel P.A. Porteous, VC, 71; Mr Christopher Proust, QC, MEP, 47; Professor R.A. Raphael, chemist, 68; Sir Ashton Roskill, QC, former chairman, Monopolies and Mergers Commission, 87; Mr Lawrence Rowe, cricketer, 40; Mr J.D. Salinger, author, 70; Lord Swansea, 64.

Marriage

Mr R.L. Parr and Miss A.J. Massey. The marriage took place on Friday, December 30, 1988, at Christ Church, Port Sunlight, Cheshire, of Richard Parr, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Alison Massey, of Great Sutton, Cheshire.

Anniversaries

Today: Births: Charles Edward Smart, 'Bonnie Prince Charlie', 1720; Giovanni Pascoli, poet, 1855; Henri Matisse, painter 1869. Deaths: John Flamsteed, first astronomer royal 1675-1719, 1719; Gustave Courbet, painter, 1817; Miguel de Unamuno, philosopher and poet, 1936; Sir Frank Benson, actor-manager, London, 1939; Sir Malcolm Campbell, land and water speed record breaker, 1948.

New Year's Day: Births: Edmund Burke, statesman and writer, Dublin, 1729; Maria Edgeworth, novelist, Blackborough, Oxon, 1767; Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, Liverpool, 1819; Sir James Frazer, anthropologist, Glasgow, 1854; E.M. Forster, novelist, London, 1879.

Deaths: William Wycherley, dramatist, London, 1716; Johann Bernoulli, mathematician, Basel, 1748; Johann Christian Bach, composer, London, 1782; Jacob Wassermann, novelist, Altsausse, Austria, 1934.

Hill farmers are 'struggling'

By Ronald Faux

Many hill farmers on National Trust land cannot make a proper living and face onerous constraints in maintaining their farms, according to a report by the trust's working party on hill farming.

The report, which criticises the landlord-tenant relationship between trust and hill farmer as "inappropriate", was due to be published this week but a launch press conference was cancelled.

Copies have been sent instead to "interested parties". The findings illustrate the growing clash of interests between those who live and work in hill areas and those who seek to conserve them, with minimum blamish, for recreation.

The working party visited about 24 hill farms in England and Wales and found that while the trust was doing much to perpetuate a farming ladder, giving young men and women an opportunity to come into

the industry, many of the new farmers and others who had long been in agriculture were living in marginally viable circumstances.

Trust properties were among the few remaining tenanted farms and competition among young people for a vacant tenancy pushed bids above the realistic productivity of the land.

Normal margins were stretched almost to breaking point and the group was distressed to learn of one case where rent was negotiated upwards on entry, making the venture even more risky.

The group preferred that vacant farms were let at a pre-set rent geared to the profitability of the holding and to a tenant judged on his suitability rather than on what he was prepared to pay. This would be "closer to the equal partnership of landlord and tenant", the report said.

The report also said the trust often imposed onerous

constraints — such as maintenance of walls, buildings and conservation clauses — on its new lettings. Aspiring tenants rarely took sufficient account of these when drawing up their bid.

The group discovered an unjustified trend to charge higher rents per acre on smaller farms and much time and money devoted by the trust to buildings that were of little use to the farmer.

"We could imagine some tenants being upset to see many thousands of pounds spent on repairing buildings of little or no use to modern agriculture while they labour in primitive conditions", the report said.

The report called for more sympathetic control of grazing by employing experienced shepherds rather than having farm wardens "trying to perform farming operations from a position of relative ignorance".

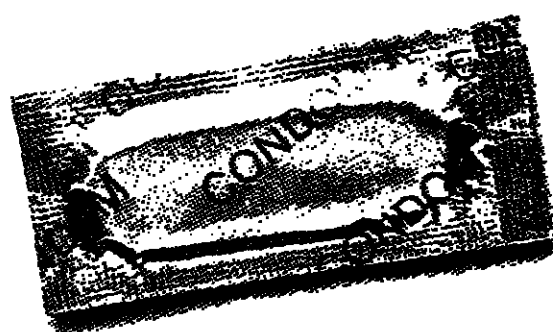
Ring 18ct gold £540.

Earrings 18ct gold and precious stones £2,500.

Ring 18ct gold and diamonds £1,600.

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High temple: Next was a power

SHOPPING

Last rites for the design decade?

Deyan Sudjic reviews the year when consumers began to look through the packaging at what they were actually buying

This was the year when George Davies got fired from Next, and suddenly, just like the day in 1974 when British Land got so worried by the antics of its fashionable subsidiary, Biba, that it ousted Barbara Hulanicki, the grown-ups were back in charge.

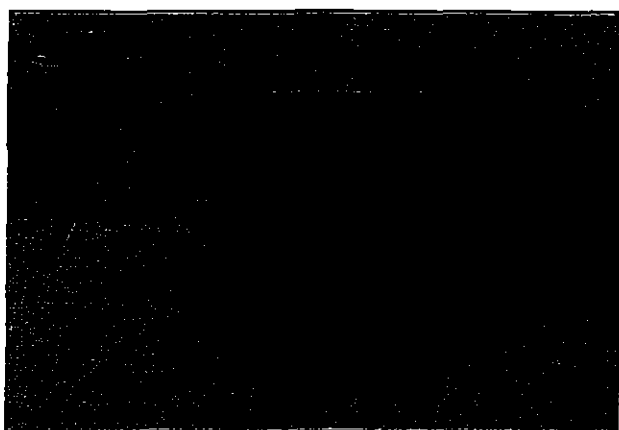
Davies's firing looked suspiciously like the final act of the design decade, just as Hulanicki's exit put the lid on swinging London. In the hands of the accountants from Gratian, Next is unlikely to put large sums of money at the disposal of bright young things with mad-scientist haircuts. It is not that Next was so strikingly original; in fact, it borrowed heavily from the high fashion end of the retailing business. But having it around was a powerful argument that "design" could be a respectable activity, and that assuming a standard of decent visual literacy among customers, rather than talking down to them, could actually make money for a company.

Fortunes have certainly been made in the remaking of the country's high streets. But you could already hear the sounds of a backlash, even before Davies fell. Gerald Ratner, boss of the eponymous jewellery chain, was delighting in pricking the pretensions of design. He toured the country cheerfully telling anybody who would listen that design served only to enrich the designer at the expense of the retailer. "Pile it up high, sell it cheap" was his scarcely original message. More pervasive has been the slowly dawning suspicion that too much design becomes manipulative and dishonest, that it even tampers, in some way, with reality.

When the Metropolitan Police calls in an image consultant, and the Midland Bank has made itself look more like a travel agency than a bank, it is hardly surprising that questions have begun to be asked about the substance behind the gloss. The realization that behind the maple strip floors and quartz halogen lights - now the currency for everything in the high street from wine bars to building societies - there is a yawning



Fresh sensations for the visually jaded: Ron Arad's furniture brought international renown



Kristian Gaville stool and Philippe Starck armchair at Maison; Asda's Constructivist label

lack of originality has triggered off a sharp reaction. The designers themselves now strive for "authenticity". This can take the neurotic, tortured form of shops that are carefully designed to look as if they are entirely innocent of design. Lovingly created shabbiness and faked ethnic glamour have become part of the armoury of the shop designer. Design is being used to create ever more detailed dreams, from American delis of the 1940s to the eruption of a facsimile of Left Bank Paris Bohemia on the soon-to-be pedestrianized streets of Soho. It is the hunt for authenticity, as expressed by out-of-register Comecon packaging, that has led Asda to sell its own-brand vodka in bottles emblazoned with an art director's version of a Constructivist hammer and sickle.

In contrast, retailers such as Paul Smith and Joseph, both of whom can be seen as having their own authentic sense of style, have gained in strength. They in turn have influenced mass market chains such as Esprit, which has gone as far as hiring the architect Norman Foster, better known for his £500 million Hong Kong Shanghai Bank than his high street work. But the hunt among the visually jaded for fresh sensations has become

ever keener. They have discovered Spain as the new place to watch for their furniture, nowhere better displayed than at Maison, the new shop at the bottom of London's Fulham Road. And they have put London-based designers, led by Ron Arad, on the international stage.

Meanwhile, out on the edge of town, an area at which Next was just beginning to look, and to which even Habitat is now busily migrating, monstrous shopping sheds are swallowing everything that stands in their path. Marks & Spencer and Tesco are now reluctant to open any new stores that are not ringed by seas of tarmac for parking. And even Sainsbury is only clinging on in town by the skin of its teeth, building on left-over sites close to affluent inner-city suburbs.

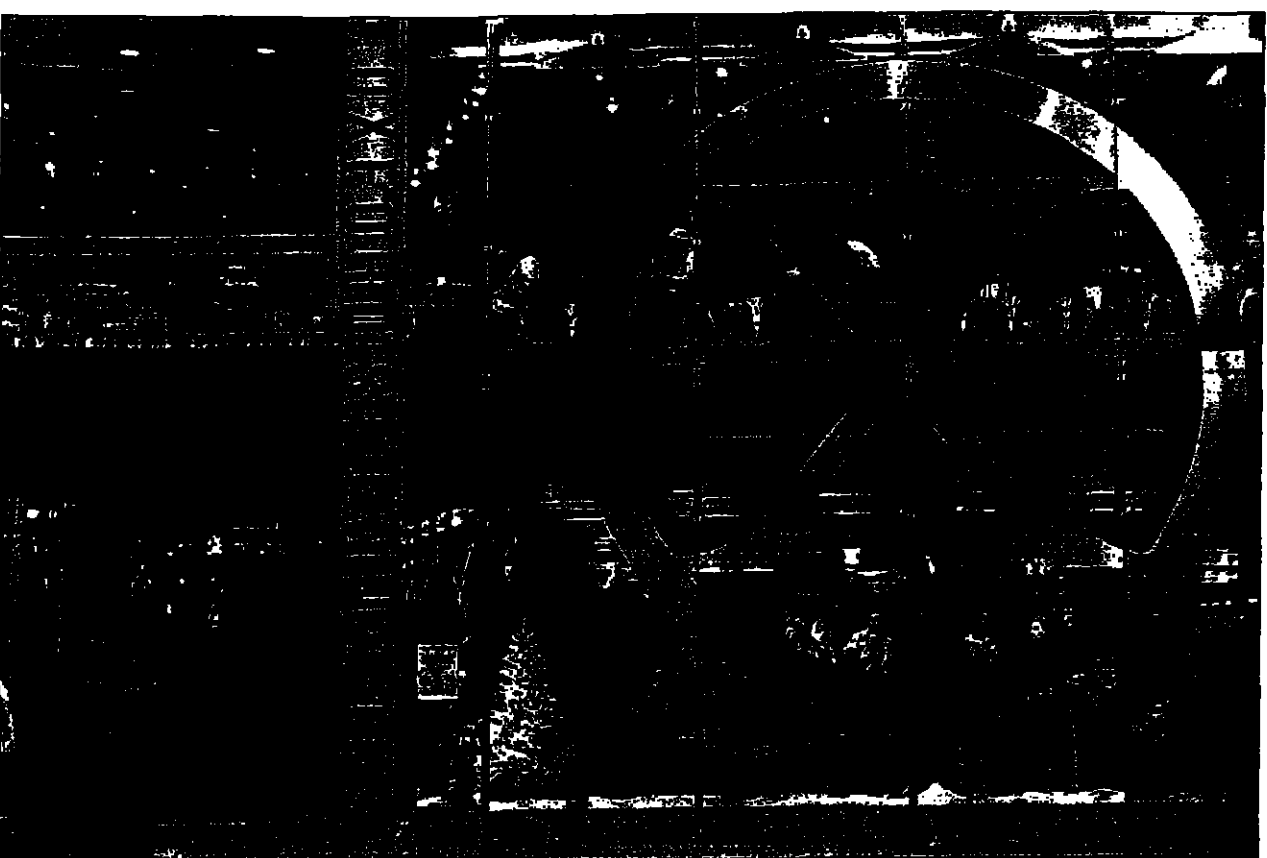
After the instant and taxpayer-subsidized success of the Metrocentre in Gateshead, the out-of-town shopping centre has become the norm rather than the exception. Now that these malls come equipped with multi-screen cinemas, restaurants and playgrounds, they have become virtually the only kind of public space that is being

built. Niche marketing has run riot, from the concourse at Waterloo Station to the departure lounge of Heathrow Airport. The more up-market "shopping and recreation" areas such as London's Brompton Cross, and born-again Carnaby Street, are only the other side of this particular coin.

In retrospect, 1988 looks like going down as the year when the style of the decade was revealed to have been design with everything, and in so doing passed immediately into history, just at the moment when the retail boom ran out of steam. It was the year in which Britain got so good at making shops which could make virtually anything they sold look good that people started to worry about exactly what they were buying, rather than just enjoying their colour co-ordinated wrappings. It was a year in which, to the surprise of everyone, even Mrs Thatcher took a well-publicized tilt in the previously deeply un-Thatcherite direction of the Green movement. Conspicuous consumption seemed to have had its day. With all preconceptions superceded, then, we are left with plenty of time to ponder exactly what shape the 1990s will assume when they finally do arrive.



Uneasy neighbours: while Sainsbury clings on in town centres by the skin of its teeth, Esprit brings taste to the mass market



High temple: Next was a powerful argument that "design" could be a respectable activity - but the backlash had already begun

Veuve Clicquot

COMPLIMENTS OF THE ENGLISH SEASON — 1988 —

Everyone involved seems to agree - it was a brilliant Season, and we hope you found many occasions memorable enough to celebrate with Veuve Clicquot.

To mark the close of 1988, we offer you some of the Season's success stories, with our best wishes for the Season to come - and the key dates for your '89 diary.

BEST HAT-TRICK

The Aga Khan's 'Kahyaal' won three races in a row, culminating in the 1988 Derby. This 11-1 shot won by a length and a half in record time. To complete the three, it was the Aga Khan's third Derby win, and his other runner 'Doyoun' came in third. The 20th Derby will be run on 7 June, 1989.

MOST CONFUSING DATE

The Fourth of June at Eton, which fell on the First of June in 1988, will be celebrated on the Thirty-first of May in 1989.

STRICTEST DRESS CODE

Henley Royal Regatta, where the sight of female kneecaps sent stewards' faces Leander pink. Hemlines may rise, but next year's Regatta (the 150th) will fall between 28 June and 2 July.

MONEY CAN'T BUY (1)

Admission to the Royal Enclosure at Ascot. The list is now closed indefinitely. The 1989 meeting will be held from 20-23 June.

TOUGHEST GOING

Viewing the Cross Country circuit at Badminton. The 4.3 miles walk round the course left quite a few spectators wishing they were on horseback. On the other hand, certain of the 32 fences left riders wishing they were on foot and in due course, some were. The 1989 Badminton Horse Trials are fixed for 4-7 May.

MONEY CAN'T BUY (2)

... a picture hook at the Royal Academy. 12,543 works were entered, but only 1,261 were displayed. The 221st Summer Exhibition opens on 10 June 1989.

HOTTEST TICKET

'Le Traviata' at Glyndebourne sold out well in advance. Rumour has it that one or two seats were available for 'The Electrification of the Soviet Union'. Outside, 'The Vintification of the Veuve Clicquot' drew applause at all the best picnics. Glyndebourne's 1989 Opera Season runs from 19 May to 23 August.

MOST ELBOW-ROOM

The new, less-crowded Chelsea Flower Show. With the two members-only days, and tickets sold only in advance, about 90,000 fewer people attended. You could actually see the flowers! The 76th Chelsea Flower Show will be held from 23 to 26 May, 1989.

BEST MAY BALL

The grandest balls were at Magdalen (Oxford) and at Trinity (Cambridge). Oxford also hosted more "whacky" affairs at Oriel and Somerville. In Cambridge, Magdalen and Pembroke threw the runner-up balls.

A Mexican theme and 70's rockabilly band Showaddywaddy, made Magdalen the outright winner.

BEST WEATHER

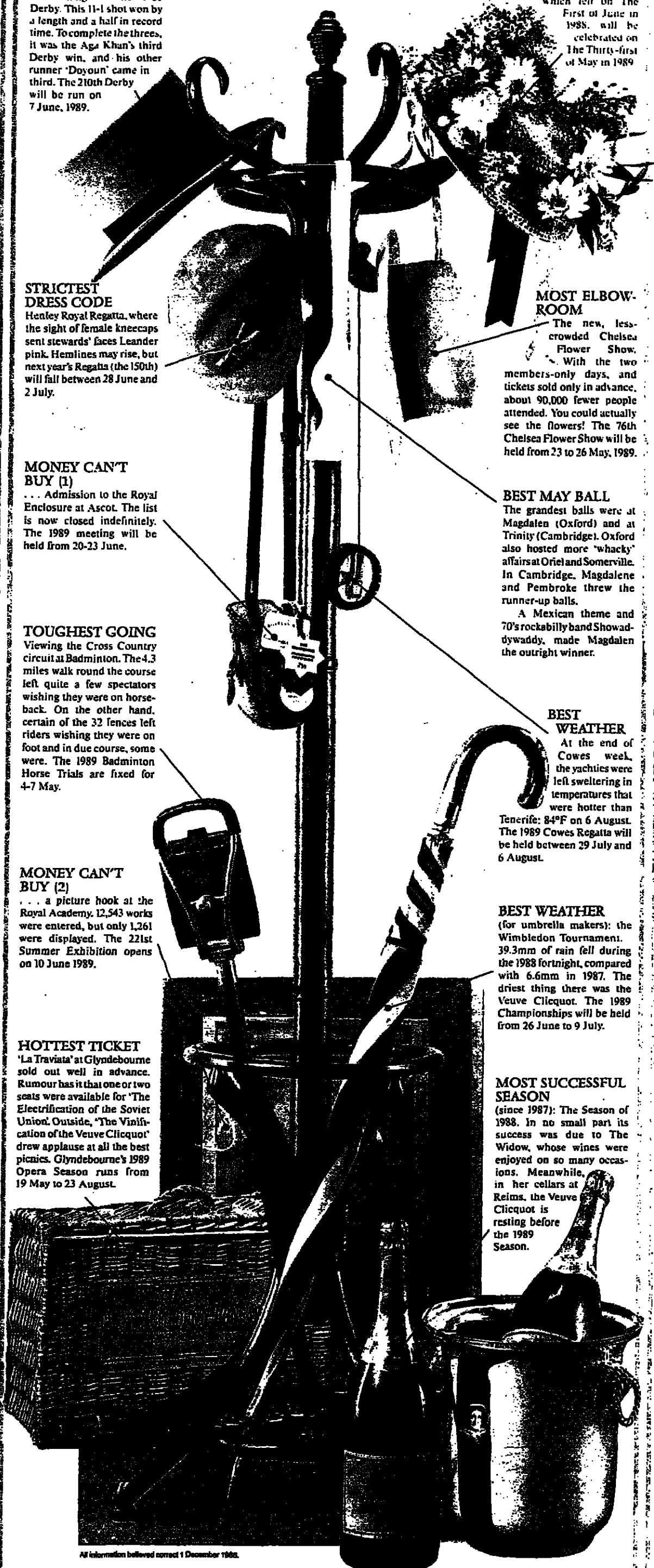
At the end of Cowes week, the yachters were left sweltering in temperatures that were hotter than Tenerife: 84°F on 6 August. The 1989 Cowes Regatta will be held between 29 July and 6 August.

BEST WEATHER

(for umbrella makers): the Wimbledon Tournament. 39.3mm of rain fell during the 1988 fortnight, compared with 6.6mm in 1987. The driest thing there was the Veuve Clicquot. The 1989 Championships will be held from 26 June to 9 July.

MOST SUCCESSFUL SEASON

(since 1987): The Season of 1988. In no small part its success was due to The Widow, whose wines were enjoyed on so many occasions. Meanwhile, in her cellars at Reims, the Veuve Clicquot is resting before the 1989 Season.



All information believed correct 1 December 1988.

Honours for Seoul victors and Canepa

Continued from page 1

MP for Plymouth Drake, is made a DBE.

Sir Jack Lewis, professor of chemistry at Cambridge since 1970, Sir John Sainsbury, chairman of the Sainsbury food chain, and Mrs Sally Oppenheim-Barnes, the former Conservative Minister, are created life peers.

Penelope Keith is one of a number of actors and actresses honoured. She receives the OBE.

Mr Angus Ogilvy, husband of the Queen's cousin Princess Alexandra, is knighted in the Queen's personal honours list. He becomes a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, an order which only the Queen can bestow.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Social and Liberal Democratic Party, becomes a Privy Counsellor. Five members of his party receive political honours, including Mr William Goodhart, QC, who is knighted.

Mr Peter Levene, the former adviser to Mr Michael Heseltine who was brought into the Ministry of Defence

as chief of defence procurement in 1985, is made a KBE.

Gibraltar Police Commissioner, Mr Joseph Canepa, who headed the operation which led to the deaths of three IRA terrorists in March, receives the Queen's Police Medal.

Britain's successes in the Seoul Olympics are well-represented in the sporting awards. Richard Dodds, captain of the gold-medal winning Great Britain hockey team, and David Whitaker, the coach, receive the OBE, as does Michael Spracklen, who coached the winning rowing pair of Steve Redgrave and Andy Holmes.

Michael McIntyre and Philip Vaile, who won the gold medal in the Star class yachting event, receive the MBE. Frank Dick, director of coaching for the British Amateur Athletic Board, receives the OBE.

Dusty Hare, the former England rugby union fullback, Eric Bristow, six-times world darts champion and Tony Alcock, the former world

bowls champion, receive the MBE.

From the arts there is a knighthood for Eduardo Paolozzi, the sculptor, CBEs for Michael Holroyd, the literary biographer and Ian Richardson, the actor, with OBEs for actors Richard Briers and Peter Cushing.

The industrial awards include knighthoods for Mr Graham Day, chairman and chief executive of the Rover Group, Mr Ian MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco, and Mr David Alliance, chief executive of Coats Viyella.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, and Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, again made no nominations for political honours.

But Mr Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Manchester Wythenshawe and front-bench spokesman on the disabled, becomes the first Labour MP to be honoured for almost 10 years. The New Zealand Labour Government nominated him for the Queen's Service Order to mark his work in promoting relations between the two countries.

Britain is hailed by Thatcher

Continued from page 1

from the generous response of people everywhere. Hope had sprung from the East-West summit, the pronouncements and reforms of Mr Gorbachev, the increasing freedom of speech and movement in the Soviet Union and at home from "from the highest standards of living we have ever known, lower taxes, lower unemployment and far more jobs".

Mr Kinnock sees realistic cause for hope for world cooperation at the beginning of 1989. But he says the same could not be said for Britain under a government which he said despised cooperation and produced daily hypocrisies as its deeds increasingly contradicted its words.

He said: "In 1989 ugliness, danger and violence in Britain will increase - not because government does too much regulating but because government takes too little responsibility."

Bomb 'placed on plane in Frankfurt'

Continued from page 1

for causing the Lockerbie disaster.

Although 12 of the men picked up have subsequently been released, Mr Dalkamouni and Mr Abdel Ghandar, another Palestinian of Jordanian origin also suspected of belonging to the FPLP-GC, are still being held.

Both men are known to have had several passports from different countries in different names. The spokesman for the office of West Germany's Federal Public Prosecutor told *The Times* that he believed one or more of these was Syrian, though he could not comment on reports that Mr Dalkamouni had been carrying some form of official document identifying him as a representative of Syria.

As West German Government officials announced the "refined" security measures yesterday, the West German commercial pilots' association, Cockpit, called for improved security checks on airport staff, including cleaners and luggage loaders. Captain Peter Hanzel, a member of the association's executive, said such employees and others had unlimited access to aircraft.

His complaints were echoed yesterday by Numast, the British union representing flight engineers, which sent a list of shortcomings in airport security to the Aviation Minister.

In London, the Government promised financial help for Lockerbie yesterday, not just to rebuild parts of the town devastated in the disaster but to help it recover from the trauma it has suffered. Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment at the Scottish Office, said in the town that the Government was committed to "renewing the fabric of life in Lockerbie".

He also announced a £150,000 government donation to the Air Disaster Appeal which is being administered by Dumfries and Galloway regional council.

Battle to save King's Cross for the birds

DENZIL MCNEELANCE

By David Cross



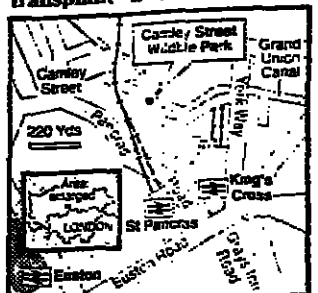
Mr Leigh Thornton with three local children who have signed a petition against the Camley Street development.

The manager of a north London wildlife park is mounting a campaign to prevent the removal of King's Cross station, which is to be replaced by a £580 million terminal for trains using the Channel tunnel.

Volunteers for the London Wildlife Trust have constructed the Camley Street nature reserve, which attracts up to 20,000 visitors a year, on the site of a former rubbish tip at a cost of £1 million. Its manager is Mr Leigh Thornton.

Since 1982, nature lovers have identified 53 species of bird on the two-acre site. British Rail wants to build a cut-and-cover tunnel through the park for cross-Channel trains. It says it will move the garden reserve by plant, returning the flora when the tunnel has been completed.

The trust is sceptical, however. Mr Thornton said: "We do not believe it is possible to transplant a nature reserve



without causing considerable disruption. We cannot see the land ever returning to Camley Street and that is why we are opposing the scheme.

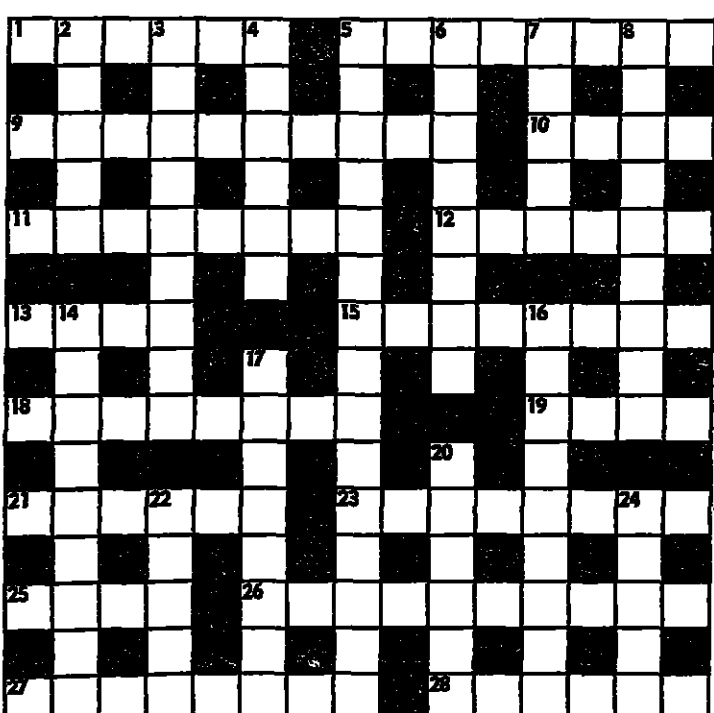
The trust is organizing a petition among park users and local residents and is trying to mobilize sympathetic MPs to oppose a private British Rail Bill, needed before the scheme can go ahead.

King's Cross Underground station will start to return to normal next month, 14 months after the fire which killed 31 people and after the spending of nearly £10 million on repairing the damage and installing new equipment (Rodney Cowton writes).

Since the fire the station has been operating with only two of its seven escalators working.

Mr Derek Clark, project manager, says it is hoped to have three of the escalators, serving the Piccadilly Line, in use from January 20, and that the two Northern Line escalators will come into use, and the trains on that line resume stopping at King's Cross, shortly afterwards. A new ticket office has already opened.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,867



- ACROSS**
- 1 Fish is sent back - affected the inside (6).
 - 5 Take one's place to eat something vegetarian (5).
 - 9 A sacred song and perhaps a comic one: in fact, that's fashionable (10).
 - 10 Some of the lights are blue (4).
 - 11 Type of spectacles for the partially-sighted? (4-4).
 - 12 Lemur heard aboard ship (3-3).
 - 13 Said to be the top pet (4).
 - 15 Example of coolness in the sea (8).
 - 18 Put it back to conceal an entrance to restaurant perhaps (8).
 - 19 Twisted appearance of sculptor's work (4).
 - 21 Matron giving woman a preliminary examination (6).
 - 23 In old Agatha Christie line appears (8).
 - 25 Sound chap, Thomas (4).
 - 26 Page of Mozart, perhaps, marked with runs? (5-5).
 - 27 Went back to Vanbrugh's work "The Origin of Drama" (8).
- DOWN**
- 2 But we heard her other name (5).
 - 3 Pit-stop full of petrol (9).
 - 4 When at home, gobble up what comes in (6).
 - 5 The last age of man, next to the first (6,9).
 - 6 Distribution of gifts - lot damaged, in repair (8).
 - 7 Deposit for a house (5).
 - 8 Young couple in Welwyn working with pressmen (5-4).
 - 14 To be a real mess, get worked up (9).
 - 16 It produces lots of circuits for very little token money (9).
 - 17 German is in a French town - with these companions? (8).
 - 20 Means of admission to the French course (6).
 - 22 Why there is no egg in the hair dye? (5).
 - 24 Businessman is from the upper class, in short (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,861

SLIPPERY CAPOTE
TUNO E A A A A
ATTENTION ROSE
P R C U A E E E
FLIGHT RESORDER
S N E N M O N
DISARMS MANNING
I E O A
ACCURATE MESSAGE
U A C A N E S
NATIONAL NUMBER
E T U A P R I
PAUL GEORGE SMITH
L E N I E C G
CLARET GANYMEDE

Solution to Puzzle No 17,866

LAST MINUTE PUSH
U T A I E N W H O P E
P R I A T I O N W H O P E
E A H D A R E G
S A N W E L L E R T U K U
B M E D U L
P O O N A D I S E N G A G E
I A T T R I C I A N E M A
P A T R I C I A N E T R E M
E E C A N E S
M E D I A T O W E L L G U
A S L E B E L L G U
J A V E L I N O R I G A M I
O I V S L N N D
R U L E C E N T I S I A D E

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
	Sale	Buy
Australia \$	2.19	2.20
Austria Sch	23.50	23.50
Belgium Fr	70.00	66.40
Canada \$	2.24	2.12
Denmark Kr	12.80	12.80
France Fr	7.83	7.43
Germany DM	11.23	10.73
Greece Dr	3.35	3.15
Hong Kong \$	2.88	2.72
Italy Lira	14.57	13.82
Japan Yen	124	118
Netherlands Gld	2.35	2.25
Norway Kr	11.83	11.53
Portugal Esc	204.80	204.80
South Africa Rd	4.85	4.35
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	11.83	11.53
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.15
Turkey Lira	20.48	20.48
USA \$	1.62	1.52
Yugoslavia Dnr	107.00	85.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Rebas Price Index: 118.0 (November)
London: The FT index closed down 7.8 at 1455.3.

Coucs and Jumbo Crossword, page 30

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

MOPOKE

a. An American lunch bag

b. The Antipodean owl

c. A backhanded full lounge

COOF

a. A Scottish yob

b. A slap or blow

c. A newborn calf's hoof

WHAMMY

a. Violent or pragnations

b. Dried buffalo meat

c. The evil eye

QUANT

a. To dress suggestively

b. A punt pole

c. Interrogative how much

Answers on page 13

WEATHER

Rather cloudy over most of England and Wales with fog almost everywhere which will be slow to clear. Rather cloudy in Northern Ireland and Scotland, but dry in most districts except northern and western Scotland, where drizzle is likely. Outlook: fog in many areas, rain again in the north.

ABROAD

	C	F		C	F
Algeria	27	81	Madrid	15	59
Alexandria	17	63	Melbourne	19	66
Athens	12	54	Moscow	17	63
Bahia	27	81	Nairobi	1	34
Bombay	41	106	Paris	22	72
Buenos Aires	23	73	Rio de Janeiro	2	36
Cairo	17	63	Sao Paulo	7	45
Cape Town	39	102	Seoul	4	39
Chengdu	27	81	Singapore	25	77
Cebu	15	59	Sydney	24	75
Dublin	11	52	Taipei	17	63
Hankow	16	61	Tokyo	10	50
Hong Kong	3	37	Yokohama	10	50
Imbabura	3	37			
Jeddah	28	82			
Johannesburg	25	77			
Karachi	24	75			
Lima	19	66			
London	9	48			
Luxembourg	11	52			
Manila	27	81			
Medan	24	75			
Mumbai	41	106			
Nairobi	1	34			
Paris	22	72			
Rio de Janeiro	2	36			
Sao Paulo	7	45			
Seoul	4	39			
Singapore	25	77			
Sydney	24	75			
Taipei	17	63			
Tokyo	10	50			
Yokohama	10	50			

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Aberdeen, Glasgow, 13C (55F); lowest day temp: Hemsby, Norfolk, and Lowestoft, Suffolk, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, 0.91in; highest sunshine: Leeds, West Yorkshire, 5.1h.

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, Celsius; F, Fahrenheit; S, Sun; M, Moon.

	C	F		C	F
Belfast	9	48	Guernsey	8	46
Birmingham	9	48	Isle of Man	8	46
Blackpool	9	48	Jersey	8	46
Bristol	10	50	London	9	48
Cardiff	10	50	Manchester	9	48
Edinburgh	11	52	Newcastle	11	52
Glasgow	10	50	Widney	11	52

NOON TODAY

	C	F		C	F
London	10	50	London	10	50
Birmingham	9	48	Birmingham	9	48
Blackpool	9	48	Blackpool	9	48
Bristol	10	50	Bristol	10	50
Cardiff	10	50	Cardiff	10	50
Edinburgh	11	52	Edinburgh	11	52
Glasgow	10	50	Glasgow	10	50

HIGH TIDES

	AM	PM		AM	PM
London Bridge	6:58	7:20	London Bridge	6:58	7:20
Aberdeen	6:45	7:05	Aberdeen	6:45	7:05
Abermouth	6:45	7:05	Abermouth	6:45	7:05
Belfast	6:23	6:43	Belfast	6:23	6:43
Cardiff	11:46	12:06	Cardiff	11:46	12:06
Devonport	6:45	7:05	Devonport	6:45	7:05
Dover	6:40	7:00	Dover	6:40	7:00
Falmouth	6:50	7:10	Falmouth	6:50	7:10
Harwich	6:45	7:05	Harwich	6:45	7:05
London	6:58	7:20	London	6:58	7:20
Portsmouth	6:45	7:05	Portsmouth	6:45	7:05
Southampton	6:45	7:05	Southampton	6:45	7:05
Swansea	6:45	7:05	Swansea	6:45	7:05
Tees	6:40	7:00	Tees	6:40	7:00
Warrington	6:40	7:00	Warrington	6:40	7:00

TOMORROW

	AM	PM		AM	PM
London Bridge	7:00	7:20	London Bridge	7:00	7:20
Aberdeen	6:45	7:05	Aberdeen	6:45	7:05
Abermouth	6:45	7:05	Abermouth	6:45	7:05
Belfast	6:23	6:43	Belfast	6:23	6:43
Cardiff	11:46	12:06	Cardiff	11:46	12:06
Devonport	6:45	7:05	Devonport	6:45	7:05
Dover	6:40	7:00	Dover	6:40	7:00
Falmouth	6:50	7:10	Falmouth	6:50	7:10
Harwich	6:45	7:05	Harwich	6:45	7:05
London	7:00	7:20	London	7:00	7:20
Portsmouth	6:45	7:05	Portsmouth	6:45	7:05
Southampton	6:45	7:05	Southampton	6:45	7:05
Swansea	6:45	7:05	Swansea	6:45	7:05
Tees	6:40	7:00	Tees	6:40	7:00
Warrington	6:40	7:00	Warrington	6:40	7:00

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 4C (40F). Humidity: 6 pm, 75 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.01 in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1036.4 millibars, rising.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY
London 4.31 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.41 pm to 7.46 am
Edinburgh 4.18 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.29 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 5.02 pm to 7.51 am

TOMORROW

London 4.31 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.41 pm to 7.46 am
Edinburgh 4.18 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.29 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 5.02 pm to 7.51 am

Information supplied by Met Office

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Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 31 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Banner bid for Avdel is defeated

Banner Industries has conceded defeat in its \$89-a-share bid for Avdel, the fastener group, following the intervention of Textron with a 92p-per-share rival offer.

Banner's bid lapsed yesterday, but the American group still owns 44.57 per cent of Avdel's ordinary shares accounting for 42.7 per cent of the voting capital. Banner intends to keep its holding.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8090 (+0.0180)
W German mark 3.2055 (+0.0032)
Trade-weighted 77.7 (+0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1455.3 (-7.8)
FT-SE 100 1793.1 (-10.3)

Bargains 8022

USM (Datastream) 147.38 (-0.07)

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2189.93 (+1.25)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	Closed
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2587.44 (-4.86)
Amsterdam	Gen	Closed
Sydney	AO	1487.8 (+1.12)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	Closed
Brussels	General	Closed
Paris	CAC	415.6 (+3.3)
Zurich	SKA Gen	Closed
London	FT-A All-Share	928.56 (-3.84)
FT-100		1008.97 (-4.82)
FT Gold Mines		161.9 (-0.7)
FT Fixed Interest		96.01 (same)
FT Govt Secs		87.03 (-0.17)
Recent Issues		Page 18
Closing Prices		Page 21

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Schroders	885p (+10p)
Nobo Group	220p (+10p)
Ransome Sims	388p (+17p)
Pearl	422p (+12p)
Int Thomson	700p (+10p)
Church	440p (+10p)
Cap & Counties	382p (+9p)
Helical Bar	271p (+13p)
UK Land	787p (+30p)
Trade Indemnity	562p (+5p)
Eurotunnel Units	490p (+8p)
Johnson	360p (+8p)

FALLS:	
Handerson Admin	625p (-10p)
Tottenham Hotspur	120p (-12p)
G Oliver	515p (-10p)
Exp Co Louisiana	62p (-15p)
Bejam	163p (-7p)
Wellcome	408p (-8p)
Local & London	474p (-7p)
General Accident	882p (-7p)
Closing Prices	
SEAQ Volume	140.0m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	13%
3-month Interbank	13 1/4-13 1/2%
3-month eligible bills	12 1/2-12 3/4%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	10 1/4%
Federal Funds	9 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	8.10-8.08%
30-year bonds	100-100 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
F: \$1.8090	F: \$1.8095
E: DM3.2055	E: DM1.7725
S: SwFr2.7180	S: SwFr1.5015
S: FF10.3605	S: FF10.0585
S: Yen125.60	S: Yen125.60
S: Index: 77.7	S: Index: 94.2
ECU £0.648651	SDR £n/a

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$410.15 am-\$n/a	
close \$410.00-410.50	(\$226.50-227.00)
New York:	
Comex \$409.50-410.10	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb) ...	\$15.35 bbl (\$15.25)
Denotes latest trading price	

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: Shares fell on fears over the economy. Bid target Hammerson A (02817) shares were 6 1/2p cheaper and Land Securities (01417) shed 3p on mortgage rate worries. Iceland Frozen Foods (01616) dropped 8p after claiming victory in its bid for Bejam (02401), which fell 7p. Dollar earners fell with Glaxo (01414) down 13p and Fisons (01886) down 4p.

● Recent additions include: Louis Vuitton Moet 07251.

● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

Teenage scribblers sharpen up for 1989



By Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Teenage by name, but not by nature. This photograph of a group of economic soothsayers in a rare moment of harmony gives the lie to Mr Nigel Lawson's contemptuous reference to "teenage scribblers."

Scribble they may, but teenage (with respect) they are not. They are not even all scribblers; some are scribbles.

As Mr Garry Davies of Goldman Sachs concedes, this is a year economic forecasters would prefer to forget. Without exception they failed to anticipate the rapid rate of growth in the world economy in general or the British economy in particular.

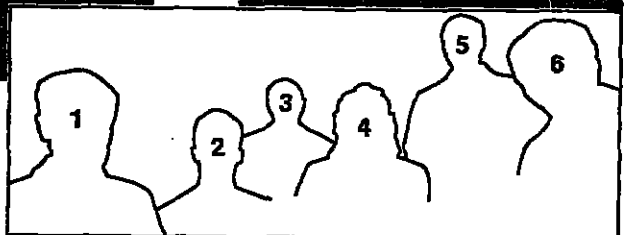
Most of them also failed to predict the rise in inflation. As one Treasury official commented ruefully: "If only we had had the courage of our convictions and reacted sooner to the rise in M0."

Performance on the balance of payments was not much better. Every-one expected the deficit to increase, but the Treasury's Autumn 1987 forecast of a deficit of £3 1/2 billion was regarded in the City as alarmingly pessimistic. Sometimes it is better not to know.

The advantage the City's Young Turks (as Denis Healey used to call

them) have over the Government is that they publish much more frequently. Even so, politicians in glass houses should not throw stones. The current account forecasts which provoked the Chancellor's outburst in July about teenage scribblers have indeed proved wrong - they were much too optimistic.

To read the scribblers' predictions for 1989 turn to page 18. Or just look at their faces.



1 Andrew Britton, National Institute of Economic and Social Research; 2 Giles Keating, Credit Suisse First Boston; 3 Alan Budd, Barclays Bank; 4 Evelyn Brodie, Morgan Grenfell; 5 Garry Davies, Goldman Sachs; 6 Henry Neuburger, Labour Party adviser.

Murdoch matches £403m Collins bid

By Colin Campbell

News International has stepped back into the bid battle for William Collins, the Glasgow publisher, by exactly matching the £403 million offer made to Collins on Thursday by a mystery white knight.

Mr Rupert Murdoch's publishing group said it would offer 88p cash for Collins' ordinary shares and 735p cash for each non-voting 'A' share, and called on Collins' board to recommend its offer.

News International, which initially bid 640p cash for each ordinary and 535p cash for each non-voting Collins share in November - only to find the mystery party had topped it - said it was clear from Collins' announcement this week that it was prepared to surrender its independence.

News International, holder of 41.7 per cent of Collins' voting capital, reiterated last night that it will not accept any competing offer for its holding.

"News is not interested in selling and wishes to retain its shareholding for the long term," the group added. It said it has sought a recommendation from Collins, but this has so far been rejected.

Mr Murdoch, chief executive of News International, said: "The board of Collins and the possible offer should now realize that we have no intention of discussing the sale of our stake in Collins, nor our interest in Harper & Row." The two companies share the equity of the US publisher.

Mr Ian Chapman, chairman of Collins, replied: "News International's offers are not

in the best interests of Collins' shareholders, authors, employees and customers."

The identity of the mystery bidder - whose takeover plans have the backing of all of Collins' board with the exception of Mr Murdoch and Sir Edward Pickering - has yet to be disclosed, but is thought to be Presses de la Cité, the French group. The bidder has said it is prepared to formalize its terms on condition that there is a "significant number of ordinary shareholders undertaking irrevocably to accept" the offers, and that it has the backing of the Collins board.

Collins' directors, with the two exceptions, said on Thursday that they intended to recommend the offer.

The battle for control of Collins began in November when News International, a

long-standing shareholder after the failure of an earlier bid, put a price of £294 million on the group.

Collins was founded in 1819 as a publisher of religious books. But today its activities spread across the publishing spectrum.

Currently it has more than 900 authors on its lists including Anita Brookner, Frank Delaney, Len Deighton, Hammond Innes and President Gorbachov.

Collins is the fourth largest publisher in Britain and ranks sixth in the world. The stock market has seen a battle in prospect, and the Collins ordinary and 'A' shares have been trading at prices substantially ahead of News' earlier terms. Collins' ordinary shares were 1p easier yesterday at 850p and the 'A' shares unchanged at 705p.

Rate hopes boost sterling

By David Smith

The pound ended the year on a firm note, boosted by the belief that high interest rates will be around for some time in Britain. It gained 1.8 cents to \$1.8090 and added a third of a penny to DM3.2055.

The Bank of England's Sterling Index rallied on its last day as a measure of changes in sterling's average value. From Thursday's close of 77.4, it moved ahead to 77.7. Since 1975, the base of the index, the pound has lost 22.3 per cent of its value against a weighted average of the currencies of Britain's trading partners.

The new Exchange Rate Index, which takes 1985 as its starting point of 100, opened at 97.3 and closed at 97.4. The ERI becomes the Bank's official measure from Tuesday.

Comment, page 19

Iceland emerges as last-minute victor

By Cliff Feltham

Iceland Frozen Foods finally emerged victorious yesterday in its £234 million takeover battle for Bejam, its bigger rival, only hours before the bid expired.

But it was touch and go right to the end with Iceland at last able to claim acceptance giving it 50.09 per cent of Bejam, whose founder and chairman, Mr John Apthorp, owner of 30 per cent of the business, resisted to the last.

The outcome means that Iceland's chairman, Mr Malcolm Walker, 18 years after opening his first shop at Oswestry, Shropshire, now controls a chain of 450 shops employing 10,000 people.

"I am exhausted but relieved and excited it is all over," he said yesterday. "It was very tense. Now the first job is to reassure the staff at

Bejam about their future and make it clear there will be no redundancies. The prospects for the future are great."

However, Mr Apthorp's intentions are still unclear, although it seems unlikely he will become a minority shareholder in the new group.

A 30-minute meeting at Iceland's merchant bankers, Rothschild, between Mr Walker and Mr Apthorp yesterday was described as "cordial and amicable."

Mr Walker said: "There were no hard feelings. He did the honourable thing and fought to the end. I have no idea what he intends to do next."

In the stock market Bejam shares were 2p lower at 171p compared with the paper offer from Iceland worth 187p. Sales at £2.5 billion, page 19

Siemens in £466 million IBM purchase

Siemens AG will pay International Business Machines Corp (IBM) between \$844 million (£466 million) and \$1.15 billion for the computer maker's US telecommunications subsidiary.

The joint offer document by General Electric and Siemens for their £1.7 billion bid for Plessey includes a memorandum of understanding for a jointly owned marketing and service company for the US. It provides for the acquisition by Siemens of the company's development, engineering assets in the US.

Koppers sales recoup £152m

By John Bell, City Editor

Beazer, the housing and construction group, has recovered a further £275 million (£152.77 million) of the £1.8 billion it paid for Koppers, the Pittsburgh building materials and chemicals group.

The latest disposals raise the current sale proceeds from Koppers to £680 million. Analysts expect that the receipts will total \$800 million to \$900 million when all the non-core activities of Koppers have been sold.

A consortium of management investors led by Mr Robert K Wagner bought the

tar, wood and coke business which will be renamed Koppers Industries Inc. Mr Wagner will become president and chief executive officer.

The headquarters building was sold to a Miami investor group which has agreed to lease it back to Koppers Industries and Beazer.

Beazer has taken a 33 per cent stake in the Koppers Industries buy-out consortium at a cost of \$17.6 million and has agreed to subscribe to \$30 million of subordinated debt if the buyers are unable to refinance their borrowings within nine months. Mr Brian Beazer, the group chairman, said that he was pleased with the programme of sales, which has raised approximately \$680 million.

"We expect to announce within the next few months the final divestitures of our programme," he added. The proceeds so far received had been used to reduce group debt.

Mr John Matthews, deputy chairman, said that the disposal programme had been exceeding expectations at the time of the bid.

Proposed \$650m settlement is basis for delaying takeover

Judge casts doubt on Drexel status

The first impact of Drexel Burnham Lambert's \$650 million (£360 million) proposed settlement of criminal charges on the firm's ability to do business, was seen on Thursday when a federal judge used the settlement as a basis to delay a hostile takeover.

Judge David Mazzone, of the US district court in Boston, said Drexel's proposed settlement of fraud charges "raises profound questions" about its financial condition and its ability to assist in completing a \$1.3 billion unsolicited takeover attempt that MAI Basic Four has made for Prime Computer. He ordered the firm to make disclosures on those and other issues.

His ruling is the first time a takeover has been affected by the proposed settlement.

Drexel has said that it has already lost \$1.5 billion in business and spent \$175 million because of the investigations by

the US Attorney and the Securities and Exchange Commission that have lasted for more than two years.

Drexel is expected to undergo further scrutiny by many states and the stock exchanges once it enters a guilty plea. That plea is expected in January.

"We are confident we will be able to satisfy the court's concern," Mr Steven Anreder, a Drexel spokesman, said.

In recent weeks, Drexel has asserted that its assets are sufficient to pay the proposed settlement and continue doing business.

Lawyers for MAI said they would comply with the order and file additional disclosures by the end of the week.

Drexel agreed last week to plead guilty to six charges of mail, wire and securities fraud. Five charges are related to share transactions between Drexel and Ivan Boesky, the former arbitrageur who settled insider trading charges for \$100

million and is now serving a three-year prison sentence.

In Thursday's action, Judge Mazzone said he would not lift an injunction against the tender offer until Drexel told Prime Computer shareholders of Drexel's financial condition and ability to complete the deal.

Drexel has said it will raise \$875 million through the sale of high-yield, high-risk instruments known as junk bonds. The firm's junk bond operations are at the heart of the SEC and criminal investigations.

The decision was the second in two weeks by Judge Mazzone to go against Drexel and MAI. On December 13, he issued an injunction halting the tender offer, after finding that MAI had failed to disclose that Drexel was a co-bidder, and not an adviser as it had said in publicly filed documents.

(New York Times)

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Godfrey Davis president

By John Bell, City Editor

The stock market's last trading session of the year was accompanied by a clutch of company board changes.

Mr Cecil Redfern, chairman of Godfrey Davis, the vehicle hire group, is retiring and, in recognition of his long service, has been appointed president. Mr Neil Benson, a director since 1982, takes over.

Mr Hugh Lang has resigned as a non-executive director of B Elliott, the machine tools group.

At Filofax, publisher of diaries, Mr Roger Hopkins, UK sales and marketing director, has resigned and Mr Howard Hunt, international sales manager, takes over.

Mr John Chittock resigned as a director of Tilbury Group, the construction company.

Dominion International, the property, finance and media group, has named a new corporate finance director. He is Mr Anthony Richards who has responsibility for mergers, acquisitions and new business opportunities.

At Southwest Resources, where Dominion International has a shareholding, Mr Ken Keep has been made an executive director.

Finally, Mr Peter Buckley is resigning as a non-executive director of British & Commonwealth, the financial services group.

Forty years on frozen food sales are £2.5bn and rising

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

When frozen peas made their debut 40 years ago not too many households had refrigerators let alone freezers but now most homes have both, underpinning a frozen food industry which on the broadest definition is worth an estimated £2.5 billion in annual sales.

By 1970, 15 years after frozen fish fingers had appeared, freezer ownership stood at about 10 per cent — it is now about 75 per cent. Britain now has the second highest consumption of frozen foods per head after the United States and the market emphasis is moving from items like vegetables and burgers to more profitable speciality lines, whose potential was so keenly spotted by Mr Malcolm Walker, chairman and founder of the Iceland Frozen Foods group, which yesterday secured control of Bejam after a long battle.

Frozen foods have seen annual growth rates approaching 10 per cent at retail values but this has eased back in the last two years.

Trade estimates suggest a value growth of 7 per cent over the 12 months to November. Netting out sector



Chipping into the frozen food block: Malcolm Walker, chairman and founder of Iceland

inflation suggests a volume growth of about 5 per cent. Although overall spending on food is likely to remain at current levels, the frozen sector is expected to increase its market share further. Euro-monitor, the research consultancy, in its latest report on the frozen foods sector, forecasts a 9.6 per cent volume

growth between now and 1992. Mr Derek Harris, buying and marketing director at Iceland Frozen Foods, said: "There is still a percentage of people to acquire freezers. The penetration of microwave ovens is growing and stands just below 40 per cent."

Much of Iceland's success has been in the area of added-

brand share of Unilever's Birds Eye Walls in 1987 was 19 per cent, that of United Biscuits' Ross Foods was 10 per cent and Nestlé's Findus 3 per cent. Euro-monitor says the estimates are disputed by all three manufacturers.

Trade estimates indicate that if production of own-label items is included Birds Eye and Ross probably account for almost half the market, with Birds Eye possibly having the edge on Ross.

Canadian-owned McCain Foods, best known for its oven chips, has built a substantial share in frozen potato products sales. Kibun, the Japanese seafood manufacturer, has a factory in Scotland. Campbell's, of the US, has invested £12 million in a new factory in Lifford, Lancashire, to supply frozen speciality foods.

The supermarket multiples account for about two thirds of frozen food sales with an increasing emphasis on their own-label lines. J Sainsbury is thought to be the leading supplier followed closely by Tesco. Iceland with Bejam should rate the next largest frozen food seller, and biggest of the freezer centre chains. Among other substantial suppliers are Asda, Sainsbury and Marks and Spencer.

FSLIC file of bills

May 13 — Coastal Bank Savings Association of Houston acquires four institutions for \$8.5 million, FSLIC pays \$138.3 million.

May 18 — Southwest Savings Association, Dallas, buys four for \$25 million, cost to FSLIC is \$2 billion.

May 25 — Texas bank purchases Bluebonnet Savings Association for \$1.8 million, FSLIC pays \$9.9 million.

June 22 — Merabank, a federal savings bank, obtains two for \$8.8 million, cost to FSLIC is \$88.2 million.

Aug 18 — Gibson Group-LST Financial Services acquires 12 for \$48 million, FSLIC pays out \$1.3 billion.

Aug 19 — In Texas eight are consolidated under FSLIC at initial cost of 2.5 billion.

Aug 23 — Holding company pays \$207.5 million for two in California, cost to FSLIC is \$566 million.

Aug 26 — 10 units merged with healthy ones. Private investors put up \$20 million, FSLIC pays out \$1 billion.

Aug 31 — In Oklahoma 14 are consolidated into six, cost to FSLIC is \$1.9 billion.

Oct 14 — Entrepreneur buys 11 in Texas combined into single unit for \$80 million, FSLIC pays \$1.3 billion.

Dec 9 — Bank board takes over insolvent unit in Denver at cost of \$1.05 billion.

Dec 22 — Bank board pledges \$1.85 billion to recapitalize 15 merged into one. Private buyer invests \$120 million.

Dec 28 — Investment group buys American Savings and Loan Association of California, with federal assistance of up to \$1.7 billion.

Dec 28 — Five Texas institutions taken over by investment group. The bank board provides \$1 billion, private investors \$315 million.

US savings and loans bank crisis

Three new thrift rescues to cost taxpayer \$1bn

By Rodney Hobson

Three more rescue deals for US savings and loans banks announced yesterday will cost the authorities more than \$1 billion (£552 million).

Pacific USA Holdings, a subsidiary of a Taiwanese company, bought eight Texan thrifts for \$37.5 million, the first rescue by a foreign firm.

The Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation pledged \$566 million to cover existing and expected losses at the institutions, which will be merged. Centex Corp of Dal-

las acquired another four, also in Texas, in a separate deal for \$26.5 million.

The FSLIC promised \$429 million in assistance to Centex, one of the nation's largest home builders.

In a third deal the American Savings Bank of Springfield, Illinois, was turned over to Citizens Federal Bank, a large savings unit in Miami. Federal assistance was expected to be about \$188 million.

Several members of Congress said they would closely

review several year-end deals approved by regulators.

Senator Howard Metzenbaum, Democrat-Ohio, said that Mr Danny Wall, chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, should suspend talks with potential buyers. In a letter to Mr Wall he said the bank board might be acting too quickly and without sufficient regard to the taxpayers' interests. The board rejected the senator's appeal saying that speed was essential to minimize costs.

Multi-billion dollar guessing game

Dallas — The struggle to rescue the Texas savings industry's deeply troubled institutions is a multi-billion dollar guessing game.

No one really knows whether the values of Texas land, office buildings and apartment projects will remain depressed for another five years. No one can project occupancy rates in 1993 or the path of interest rates between now and 1998.

Most of this week's deals have centred on Texas. On Wednesday, the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp agreed to sell the newly-formed First Texas Bank, which it will provide with an estimated \$5.1 billion in aid in



Perelman: First Texas deal the next 10 years, to a group headed by Mr Ronald Perelman, the financier.

It was the second largest rescue package under the Federal Home Loan Bank Board's

Southwest Plan. In August, Sunbelt Savings, with \$5 billion in assets, was created with \$6.2 billion in aid.

First Texas, formed from five insolvent institutions with \$12.2 billion in assets, is now the largest savings institution in Texas. The Perelman group agreed to invest \$315 million.

Critics say the Perelman group will more than recoup its investment through tax benefits.

The tax benefits are twofold: the government aid is added to the institution's cash flow but is not subject to taxes, and the institution can shelter its profit against the losses incurred by the merged institutions.

Marsh heads 'industry in South Africa' group

Lord Marsh, the former Labour Cabinet minister, has been named as chairman of a group formed by British companies to represent their interests in South Africa.

Lord Marsh, aged 60, chairman of the Newspaper Publishers' Association since 1976, becomes chairman of the British Industry Committee on South Africa Limited from tomorrow. He takes over from Sir Leslie Smith, aged 69, former British Oxygen chairman who is retiring to reduce his commitments. BICSA was set up in 1986

by 54 companies with business interests in South Africa, including BP, Shell, ICI, Barclays, Rio Tinto Zinc and Unilever.

It is opposed to apartheid and wants peaceful political changes. The group has spoken out in the past against comprehensive economic sanctions.

Lord Marsh was Minister of Power in 1965-6 then Minister of Transport until 1968. He was chairman of British Rail in the early 1970s and has since developed various business interests.

US urged to alter computer ban

The United States should abandon its efforts to limit exports of a wide range of computer products to Communist nations and instead narrow its focus to restrictions on certain advanced technologies, according to a report released yesterday by the National Academy of Sciences.

The study, done at the request of the State Department, contends that despite the Reagan Administration's strict export controls, the Soviet Union and its allies have obtained many computer technologies.

It says those technologies have become "commodity products," readily available from a variety of manufacturers in many nations and therefore "effectively uncontrollable."

As a result, the report says, the US and its allies should

concentrate on preventing Communist nations from obtaining "computer technologies of compelling military importance," like supercomputers and sophisticated semiconductor manufacturing systems.

The report also urges tighter controls on international computer networks, which have the potential to be used for "significant covert technology transfer."

Those networks can be used to send software and other technological information, like circuit designs and details of manufacturing processes, almost anywhere.

The report is one of several efforts by executives and scientists to persuade the incoming Administration of President-elect George Bush to modify the Reagan Administration's export controls.

Leaders of many American technology companies think the controls have given a competitive advantage to computer makers in countries with less restrictive trade policies.

In recent years, the National Academy of Sciences has issued several reports critical of the Reagan Administration's handling of exports of high technology.

The new report is the latest word in a debate that has continued throughout the 1980s.

On one side are military officials who want to stem the flow of advanced technology to Communist nations.

On the other side are scientists and industrialists who want to preserve as much open technical communication and trade as possible. While export restrictions

have kept some technologies out of Communist nations, the report said, this success must be balanced against "increasing competitive disadvantages faced by United States manufacturers."

The concern is not about direct sales to the Soviet Union, which are minimal. The controls mainly affect American companies trying to sell computer components, like microchips, to European or Asian computer manufacturers.

Such transactions require extensive paperwork of foreign companies that plan to resell a restricted product to another nation.

Global Trends in Computer Technology and Their Impact on Export Control, National Research Council, from the council in Washington. (New York Times)



TSB chair for Goodison

Sir Nicholas Goodison, right, chairman of the Stock Exchange for 13 years, is taking over as chairman of the TSB Group tomorrow following the retirement of Sir John Read. Sir Nicholas has been chairman designate since he became a non-executive TSB director last April.

Record Irish exports

The Irish Republic reports record exports for 1988 — up 14 per cent and exceeding £10 billion (sterling) for the first time. Figures produced by Ireland's export board also showed sales to Britain overtook imports for the first time in 20 years.

After accounting for price increases, the value of Irish exports increased by 10 per cent, projecting a trade surplus nearing £2 billion. While sales by foreign-owned companies dominated the figures, exports by Irish ones grew twice as quickly as in the previous 12 months.

Water needs more sparkle to make Sid thirsty

The City's privatization industry faces its stiffest test in 1989. If the parliamentary timetable is met — the least of the problems — the ten water authorities should be floated simultaneously in the autumn. Hordes of high-powered advisers are already coming to grips with the unprecedented complexity of multi-form prospectuses, a mind-boggling permutation of choices for big, small or overseas investors and the Herculean task facing the biggest ever collection of receiving banks.

All this preparation is taking place amid confusion over most of the future water supply plus vital financial parameters, with little clear conception of their potential investment appeal and against an ill-prepared and misconceived policy background. Even the timing looks inauspicious, though only the foolhardy would forecast what the investment climate will be like next November.

After the experience of the past 15 months, it can certainly no longer be taken for granted that selling state assets to the public is a foolproof formula for success. The final BP share sale was a triumph for the public as taxpayers but a disaster from almost every other point of view. The privatization of British Steel, far from tapping a great industrial success story, rather detracted from it. The price had to be cut sharply at the last moment, yet the flotation left small investors and the City unhappy as well as raising taxpayers' eyebrows.

The three French musketeers have provided the most helpful financial warm-up for water privatization. Their spirited war games to win control of private statutory water companies must have impressed upon speculating Sids that there must be a lot of money to be made out of water.

Recent bids, valuing some companies at more than £70 per head of population served, have also put a marker on the potential value of the 10 authorities. Since the latter provide sewerage as well as water,

they might easily be worth more than £6 billion.

But the French invasion, another result of poor political planning, has also soured the political climate. Consumers are rightly fearful of unprecedented price rises. With policy being made up on the hoof, this combination suggests political sops will have priority during the crucial period of financial decision-making. The French may have been attracted to the statutory companies by the potential for offering additional services and developing spare land. But they were most attracted by the prospect of good returns from the main business of water supply.

Building up matching sets of small companies evidently offers scope for economies of scale and saving in operational overheads. Since demand growth looks un-

exciting, however, particularly with price controls, the main appeal rested on earning virtually guaranteed returns on the heavy investment needed to improve the quality of water. But the intended price control formula for the authorities — and hence also the statutory companies — seems to be based on traditional Whitehall cash flow accounting. Instead of the water suppliers investing and earning a return on their fast-growing asset

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

base, consumers will be levied through the water price to finance capital spending. This would tend to raise the authorities' operational gearing but deprive them of the benefits of financial gearing in a relatively safe monopoly situation — not an attractive combination.

Indeed, the basic framework of the price control formula — Retail Price Index plus or minus a constant fixed 10 years in advance — looks misconceived. The Government's aversion to controlling rates of return, while sound in theory, has twisted price control systems for privatized utilities into increasingly preposterous contortions since the simple and sensible pioneer regime for British Telecom.

In the case of water, the rate of inflation is not a sensible base for price movements. Too much of the

industry's costs are fixed financial costs such as interest and depreciation — this proportion ought to rise with heavy investment.

The constant K, which was a straightforward productivity discipline for BT, is here a complex bundle of factors which may include anything from investment needs to the cost of changed payment methods or the changing costs of the National Rivers Authority quango. How can it allow, for instance, for unpredictable movements in interest rates?

The character of the privatized authorities' finances will be heavily affected by the treatment of routine maintenance (now excessively capitalized) and the authorities' existing loans. Borrowings will be reapportioned between authorities, but will the Treasury permit existing loans from the National Loans Fund to be written off before flotation, which can be done without damage to the Government's own accounts?

There is a danger that investment in the authorities will appear to offer the public low growth, with the counter-attraction of an inbuilt hedge against inflation. Their stock might resemble high-risk index-linked preference shares. The rate of inflation rather than commercial performance, would be the crucial variable — surely not the vision of the commercial water authority managers or the French.

Such an investment might well appeal to institutional investors who fear inflation is far from contained. It would hardly be likely to send Mr and Mrs Sid rushing for their chequebooks. They might be more attracted by another consequence of the vacuum of political thought: the prospect of an unseemly rush of takeover bids by Thames and Severn Trent Water, or by French companies seeking to add sewerage to their water supply business.

A lot more thought will be needed in the coming spring if water privatization is to offer the public a revival of wider share ownership rather than a farce.

numbers being out of date before they start. In practical terms, the main effect is to downgrade the dollar again, which will not please the textile and other industries, whose main competitors are now small countries in the Far East whose currencies are pegged to the dollar. The new model therefore features poorer coverage with built-in obsolescence.

As the Bank's attempts to track the new index back against the old show, the changes make little practical difference. They just confuse users and, by breaking the statistical series, make it harder to measure changes over the longer term.

At least this statistical change is not another attempt by government departments to fiddle inflation or unemployment figures so that they come up with more acceptable numbers. Conspiracy theorists might even differ on this. The new ERM will be based on 1985, as it happens, this choice of base date made it start life yesterday at about 97. Financial markets will instantly conclude that 100 is now the Government's exchange rate target.

AT&T shows signs of recovery

Success rings as Baby Bells come of age

New York — When the Baby Bells were born half a decade ago, it was widely assumed on Wall Street that American Telephone and Telegraph company, the old Ma Bell, would be the head of the family.

AT&T was expected to gain market share in computers while still reaping big profits in long-distance service.

The babies seemed more interesting to widows and orphans than to aggressive portfolio managers — but Wall Street has been proved wrong. The Baby Bells turned five last month and they have gone to the head of the Wall Street class, leaving AT&T, barred from using the Bell name as part of the split-up, far behind.

Since trading in the shares started in November 1983, an investment in AT&T has almost doubled, assuming annual reinvestment of dividends. That is down on the pace of the five Babies, but behind the Southwestern Bell Corp., the worst performer among the Baby Bells, with a total return of 172 per cent.

Mr Richard C. Took, a Merrill Lynch analyst, says Wall Street sentiment in 1983 was that two of the five Babies were likely to underperform the rest.

The Pacific Telesis Group was burdened with a hostile rate-setting commission in California, and Nynex Corporation was stuck with Boston and New York as its principal markets, both of which raised the spectre of big

business users bypassing the local telephone companies for many calls.

But Pacific Telesis was the star performer of the group, up 228 per cent, and Nynex investors have enjoyed a total gain of 197 per cent, above average in the group. The results were helped by a fall in interest rates and by new technology.

AT&T has, however, begun to show signs of life — in the current quarter, its share price is up 11 per cent, better than the market as a whole, while most of the regionals have made small gains or none at all. It is also winning support based on its traditional forte of long-distance telephone service.

Mr Jack Grubman, a PaineWebber analyst, forecasts that AT&T operating profits will grow by 15 to 20 per cent for several years to come. "I would be a buyer of AT&T before any of the Bells," he said.

An important test for AT&T will come early in the new year when the Federal Communications Commission is expected to decide whether to change its historic mode of regulation, which focuses on the rate of return of capital invested, and instead adopt a mechanism to halt increases, based on the overall rate of inflation.

AT&T has been pushing for such a step, and its share price could suffer if the FCC rules against it. (New York Times)

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling index compared with 1975 was up at 77.7 (day's range 77.7-81.8).					OTHER STERLING RATES				
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES									
Market rates for December 30									
	1 year	Class	1 month	3 month					
New York	1,800.0-1,810.0	1,807.5-1,810.0	0.59-0.57	1.57-1.55p	Argentina austr.	29.285-29.480			
London	2,147.0-2,150.0	2,147.0-2,150.0	0.58-0.56	1.56-1.54p	Australia dollar	2.1105-1.107			
Amsterdam	59.05-59.08p	6.6105-6.620p	25-24p	64-64p	Belgium franc	0.6770-0.680			
Brussels	67.07-67.40p	67.07-67.40p	58-58p	54-54p	Brazil cruzeiro	1380.95-1381.2			
Copenhagen	12.36-12.37p	12.36-12.37p	58-58p	54-54p	Canada dollar	0.7070-0.708			
Dublin	1.1850-1.2410	1.2019-1.2220	59-59p	153-145p	France franc	7.5025-7.542			
Frankfurt	23.293-23.212p	23.293-23.212p	58-58p	54-54p	Germany drachma	266.2-266.22p			
Hamburg	23.293-23.212p	23.293-23.212p	58-58p	54-54p	India rupee	15.07-15.14			
Madrid	20.437-20.365p	20.437-20.365p	58-58p	54-54p	Indonesia Rp	26.58-27.7			
Milan	2359.9-2375.8p	2359.9-2375.8p	4-1p	7-3p	Kuwait dinar KD	0.9070-0.911			
Paris	51.8145-51.8145p	51.8145-51.8145p	58-58p	54-54p	Malaysia dollar	2.66-2.66			
Rome	10.5843-10.5888p	10.5843-10.5888p	4-4p	11-11p	Mexico peso	4.050-4.051			
Stockholm	11.0386-11.1066	11.0800-11.1044	94-94p	76-75p	New Zealand dollar	2.2854-2.2854p			
Zurich	22.55-22.55p	22.55-22.55p	13-13p	76-75p	Philippines peso	1.41-1.41			
					Singapore dollar	3.5081-3.513			
					S Africa rand (fin)	6.8898-7.025			
					S Africa rand (com)	6.8898-7.025			
					S.A. Dirham	6.5552-6.533			
					U.A.E. dirham	6.5552-6.533			
					Uyeda Bank, Rates supplied by				

MONEY MARKETS

[illegible]

replace £124/32%
Silver: \$6.05-8.07 (£3.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100											
Dec 89	180.00	180.00	178.50	178.50	3276	US Treasury Bond					
Jan 90	183.20	184.40	181.50	181.50	3284	Mar 89	8901	8907	8930	8930	1208
Three Month Sterling						Jun 89	8912	8917	8930	8921	0
Mar 89	87.02	87.04	86.97	87.00	7407	Long Gilt					
Jun 89	87.02	87.04	86.97	87.00	7407	Mar 89	3509	3514	3509	3514	1775
Sep 89	86.23	86.23	86.22	86.23	20	Japanese Gov Bond					
Dec 89	86.25	86.25	86.25	86.25	181	Mar 89	105.55	105.55	105.52	105.52	100
Three Month Eurodollar						Jun 89	105.55	105.55	105.52	105.52	100
Mar 89	90.58	90.68	90.58	90.58	297	German Gov Bond					
Jun 89	90.58	90.68	90.58	90.58	297	Mar 89	95.45	95.59	95.45	95.45	10772
Sep 89	90.58	90.58	90.58	90.58	297	Jun 89	94.87	94.87	94.87	94.83	21
Dec 89	90.34	90.34	90.34	90.35	1	Sep 89	94.87	94.87	94.87	94.83	0

COMMODITIES

Price of oil dropped 40 cents, changed in a

LONDON FOEX											
COCA		G W		J W		COOPER		G W		J W	
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
COFFEE											
Jan 1200-1201	Jan 1200-1201	Jan 1200-1201	Jan 1200-1201	Jan 1200-1201	Jan 1200-1201	Jan 1200-1201	Jan 1200-1201	Jan 1200-1201	Jan 1200-1201	Jan 1200-1201	Jan 1200-1201
Mar 1201-1202	Mar 1201-1202	Mar 1201-1202	Mar 1201-1202	Mar 1201-1202	Mar 1201-1202	Mar 1201-1202	Mar 1201-1202	Mar 1201-1202	Mar 1201-1202	Mar 1201-1202	Mar 1201-1202
May 1201-1207	May 1201-1207	May 1201-1207	May 1201-1207	May 1201-1207	May 1201-1207	May 1201-1207	May 1201-1207	May 1201-1207	May 1201-1207	May 1201-1207	May 1201-1207
Jul 1201-1208	Jul 1201-1208	Jul 1201-1208	Jul 1201-1208	Jul 1201-1208	Jul 1201-1208	Jul 1201-1208	Jul 1201-1208	Jul 1201-1208	Jul 1201-1208	Jul 1201-1208	Jul 1201-1208
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
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Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
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Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
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Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
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Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
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Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
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Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
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Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
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Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
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Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
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Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157
Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158	Jun 90	159	159	158	158	158
Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156	Dec 89	157	157	156	156	156
Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157	Mar 90	158	158	157	157	157

Edited by Vivien Goldsmith

The 1st month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

National Westminster Home Loans Limited
41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP,

[illegible]

FAMILY MONEY

Ten sure-fire steps to cash catastrophe

Some people are born to financial disaster, while others have it thrust upon them. And then there are those, as Tom Tickell explains, who do their level best to achieve it...

As the old truism has it, promises are like pie crust — made to be broken. The same almost certainly applies to new year resolutions. Loading yourself down with pious aspirations to introduce practical and sensible financial planning in January merely leads to heartache at the end of March.

How do you get over the hump? One way is to look at the resolutions which will spell disaster in 1989, or any other year. You can always savour the warm feeling of breaking them, knowing that you should never have kept them in the first place.

Resolution One is for the determined financial failure is never to worry about records. Life insurance policies, national insurance numbers, tax forms and savings certificates are bound to turn up when you need them, so there is no point in worrying about them now.

One man at the Money Show a couple of years ago had certainly adopted this policy. He told me that he had been in the black economy for years, but had never kept records. If a tax investigator got round to him, he would have no chance of working out what was owed to Her Majesty's government.

The only problem with this was that having kept out of the tax authorities' sight for 20 years the man now needed to come clean. Having no use for accountants, his intention was to go into a tax office — any tax office — announce that

he was willing to let bygones be bygones, and hand them a cheque for £5,000.

Resolution Two is to keep insurance bills to an absolute minimum. Insurance companies may claim that you need to insure the house for the full cost of repairs, should disaster strike, but they would say that, wouldn't they?

A far better idea would be to remember your father's advice to look at the price for which you could sell the place, and knock off something for the value of the land.

The connoisseur of financial failure will never bother to update the sums he pays for contents, and will assume that as all insurance companies are the same, the cheaper the rate, the better.

They only find out how wrong they are when there is nothing they can do about it.

Resolution Three is to load yourself with an enormous mortgage, because in the long run property prices will never go down. Do not bother about budgeting or allowing for interest rate changes. You will manage, somehow, and it will look a very wise investment in 10 years' time.

Resolution Four follows when you run into real problems when interest rates rocket upwards, as they have this year — up to 12.75 per cent now.

The successful failure adopts the policy of keeping the problems to himself, and missing a couple of payments. There is always a chance that



the computers will not spot the omission and you can buy yourself time and save embarrassment. Eventually you realize that the building society has spotted what is happening, and decide on emergency action.

Resolution Five is to "rationalize" all the debts you have built up with the bank, building society and credit cards. Just go along to a second mortgage

company which will lend you enough money to repay the lot.

Now you have got all your bills under one roof, the position looks far healthier. The only problem is that you are now paying much higher interest on the same money, and have put your house under even greater threat.

Resolution Six is to cash in your assets — life insurance policies, that type of

thing — early, perhaps after three or four years if you need cash quickly. You know they are bound to be worth something.

As you are a practical man, you cannot be bothered with all the talk about heavy charges at the front, and the slow build-up of their value. You need the money now.

Now that the share prices look so depressed compared with last year, it seems the perfect moment to surrender the policy — before values drop further.

If someone tells you that each monthly payment you make buys you more units, the value of which will rise when confidence returns, take no notice. He probably works for a life assurance company.

By this stage, financial storm clouds have well and truly gathered, but where there is death, there is hope. An aged cousin finally succumbs after a long illness, and leaves you a range of unit trust holdings and assorted investments worth £100,000.

Resolution Seven should be to cash in the trusts showing the greatest losses and the boring middle-of-the-road general funds, whose results seem unexciting. As you keep on telling yourself, you need to make money fast. So look for the trusts which have shown really exciting growth over the past three or six months.

A friend of yours who is a financial adviser may recommend that you look for a record of steady performance over the past 10 or 15 years.

Point out that you want to check on today's good news, and not yesterday's history.

Resolution Eight is always to take an investment tip when you hear one. An offshore investment group has been sending you its news letter ever since you happened to inherit your cousin's money

— and then comes the telephone call from a charming and very persuasive salesman.

A wonderful buying opportunity has come up. A specialist underwater mining company, quoted on the Vancouver Stock Exchange, is about to announce a massive order for its subaqueous power drills.

Luckily for you, 5,000 shares are available, but you must send off a cheque immediately. Otherwise the salesman will have to ring one of his other clients, and will not offer you an exciting chance like that again.

Why be suspicious? Send off your cheque, for that will guarantee you a chance to benefit from inside knowledge in the future.

Resolution Nine is to keep no money at all in banks or building societies. In the long run, you tell yourself returns from investments have always beaten savings.

If there are tax bills looming in nine months' time, worry not — you will be able to pay them from the bumper profits you will make from your foreign investment.

Your first marriage broke down in a welter of endless arguments over money, but you never actually got around to being divorced. Now the woman with whom you have lived for three years starts complaining, and insists that you should make a will.

Resolution Ten is to tell her that making a will is entirely unnecessary. Remind her that as your common law wife she is bound to inherit all you have accumulated in your lifetime of toil.

That is, of course, entirely untrue. But if you have followed the previous nine resolutions sufficiently carefully, you will leave nothing but debts behind you anyway.

Young star of the unit trust league

Unit trust investors who ventured to the more exotic corners of the earth in 1988 cornered the bonuses this year. Those who put their faith in gold saw their hopes tarnished by a lacklustre performance which once again put gold trusts at the bottom of the league tables.

The laurels for the most popular unit trust manager of the year must surely go to Mr Hugh Young, aged 30, whose star performer, Abtrust Far East Emerging Economies, made gains of more than 64 per cent. His other trust, Abtrust Pacific, came in at number three, with a gain of more than 47 per cent.

"I only took one decision in 1988 — and that was to sell my holdings in Taiwan," Mr Young says. "We got out a month before the crash." The Taiwan market had increased by about 150 per cent before it suffered a 25 per cent drop in the late summer.

The Pacific fund holds Japanese stocks, while the Far East Emerging Economies trust does not. Mr Young is still happy to be lodged in the Far Eastern economies — with the exception of Korea, the stock markets are off their highs and look like providing good value for 1989, he says.

"I still say Japan is going to do well," he adds. "If I was investing myself, I think I would go for the Pacific fund in 1989 because it allows greater flexibility — it cur-

rently has 40 per cent in Japan."

Thornton Tiger also sweetened its performance by getting the timing of the Taiwan market right.

Perhaps the most surprising of the top performers is Fidelity American Special Situations, which increased by more than 38 per cent. Fidelity tends to take a stock-picking approach rather than worry about sector weightings, and picking a few winners in a tight portfolio does wonders for performance. Fidelity American's stars were Valmont Industries, which makes irrigation equipment, and Block Drug.

Mr Anthony Bolton, the manager of Fidelity's European fund, put 20 per cent of the fund in Norway, because he liked the look of the shipping industry. The next largest holding is in France, followed by Spain, where the weighting has been reduced from 25 per cent to 14 per cent of the portfolio.

Australian funds, which concentrated on gold and other minerals, put in a poor performance. Target Australian — the worst performer of 1987, when it lost 70 per cent of its value — lost a further 13 per cent in 1988.

Australian funds which concentrated on the industrial sectors romped home, with no fewer than five in the top 25.

Vivien Goldsmith

TOP/BOTTOM 10 AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

Top	
Abtrust Far East Emerg Economs	+64.04
NIM Australian	+48.19
Abtrust Pacific	+47.28
MIM Britannia South East Asia	+40.76
Thornton Far Eastern Opporrits	+40.09
Fidelity South East Asia	+39.50
Thornton Tiger	+38.63
Fidelity American Special Sits	+38.31
Govett Pacific Income	+38.29
MIM Britannia Japan Small Cos	+38.19

Bottom	
Henderson Gold	-44.49
S&P Explorer	-38.45
Waverley Australasian Gold	-34.30
Gartmore Australian	-32.72
Royal Trust PPT	-30.99
Target Gold	-29.33
MIM Britannia Gold	-28.79
NIM Schroder Gold	-27.84
M&G Gold & General	-26.60
Govett Gold & Minerals	-25.26

Cumulative offer to bid performance with income re-invested from 29 December 1987 to 29 December 1988. Source: Mirocap

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HAMPSHIRE Building Society

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90 DAY GOLDEN ANCHOR

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Net Net Gross
Car Car T*

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Monthly Income Available on Investments of £5,000 or more

* Compounded Annual Rate If half yearly interest is credited to the account.

† Gross Equivalent to a basic rate Tax Payer

ALL OTHER COMPOSITE RATE ACCOUNTS WITH THE SOCIETY HAVE BEEN INCREASED BY 0.80%

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Drink-driving insurance on the way out

By Maria Scott

Today sees the beginning of the end for insurance policies that protect motorists against the effects of disqualification after a drink-driving conviction.

No new policies may be sold after today, and from December 31 1990 all existing policies must be phased out.

The policy provides for alternative transport if a driver is disqualified.

Negotiations have been going on between the Association of British Insurers and the Department of Trade and Industry on how these policies could be gradually phased out.

Agreement has now been reached on voluntary phasing out but Mr Francis Maude, the Corporate Affairs Minister, has said the Government may legislate if the voluntary agreement is broken.

FAMILY MONEY

Look to the east for a cheering 1989

The past year has been a patchy one for equity investors. Apart from flurries in certain industrial sectors and international markets the pessimism which set in at the end of 1987 has prevailed. The experts gave Maria Scott their predictions for 1989

Britain faces an unpleasant two years

Peter Scott, international investment strategist for Gartmore Investment Management:

"For many investment markets, 1988 was a satisfactory year. In most, 1989 should also produce returns well in excess of those on cash. A potential world shortage of high quality investments — equities as well as bonds — is beginning to appear which has very positive implications for longer-term appreciation.

"The problem markets have one thing in common — they speak English. Britain faces an unpleasant two years. However, City, business and consumer pessimism may combine to signal the start of the next bull market within the next six months.

"Investors wanting to back British equities should buy small parcels of shares over a time. Alternatively, they can get in through a unit trust savings scheme.

"Good news for investors is that we expect the Budget to contain important measures to encourage long-term savings and investment. In particular, we expect full tax



Scott: savings incentives

relief to be allowed on contributions to Personal Equity Plans. The limits on these may be raised and they will also probably be extended to allow 100 per cent of the plan to be invested in unit trusts.

"Continuing success in the Japanese and emerging markets of the Far East should create some of the best opportunities in 1989 and stronger than expected economic growth in Continental Europe justifies an overweight position there.

"The US's economic problems will not go away, but there exists some potential for short-term gains.

"Contrary to many other strategists, I believe that resources and commodities could come good in 1989."

Lawson's medicine will work, but this will take time

Colin Maltby, chief executive of Kleinwort Benson Investment Management:

"We remain bullish on Japan, powered by a combination of a strong economy, strong currency, high savings and massive institutional cashflow. Persistent high interest rates in Britain and the prospect that they will go higher in the US makes us wary of these markets.

"The London market enters 1989 in a state of extreme and exaggerated depression as headlines of City job losses vie with predictions of still higher interest rates. We believe that Mr Lawson's medicine will work, but this will take time and we will have to wait until after the Budget for a better market.

"Our model portfolio for a British private investor is 85 per cent in equities with 45 per cent in Britain, 20 per cent in the Far East, 15 per cent in Europe and 5 per cent in the US. We are avoiding gilts and other bond markets and hold 15 per cent in cash. Among our favourite London shares are Allied Lyons, Barclays, Glaxo, P&O and RTZ."



Roberts: Far East growth

I think the market will be higher this time next year

Malcolm Roberts, director of private clients at stockbrokers Fleming Montagu Stanley: "We may have to wait until the third quarter for a pick-up in the British market, and it will depend on interest rates. But I think the market will be higher this time next year.

"I think dividend growth will be strong from British companies next year, up around 11 per cent on 1988.

"I am recommending four companies as core holdings for 1989. For cautious investors I am recommending Unilever and Trafalgar House, with European Home Products and ML Holdings as a higher risk strategy. "We continue to feel that clients need a holding in Japan. We have been going into Europe and also putting a toe into the United States. But the principle areas of economic growth will be the smaller markets of the Far East."

Plenty of scope for pleasant surprises from the US

Chris Tracey, investment director at Save & Prosper: "We anticipate that there will continue to be good selective investment opportunities in many of the world's stock markets in 1989 — although markets as a whole are likely to remain fairly uncertain.

"We think that higher interest rates in Britain will slow growth without creating recession, but rates will have to remain at current levels for many months. This is likely to dampen market performance. "The American market is likely to have a dull first half as it waits to see positive action from the newly elected president. But with expectations for the stock market and for the currency so low, there is plenty of scope for pleasant surprises.



Tracey: slowdown in growth

"Japan managed to outperform virtually all others in 1988, and we feel it has the potential to continue to do so, at least in the earlier part of 1989. We expect weakness in the market as a mark of respect, should the Emperor die. But this should be a good opportunity to buy.

"Other Far Eastern markets are also looking good value at current levels."

The base metals sector will do well

Simon Corbett, head of the UK private client department at James Capel:

"In Britain we expect the first half of 1989 to be every bit as difficult as 1988. Interest rates will stay high although there are signs, like the early January sales, that the Chancellor is succeeding in taking heat out of the economy.

"Mortgage rate increases in March and April will have a fairly devastating effect, so there could be an improvement in the equity market in the second half.

"We are recommending a minimum commitment to the US, and want to see what the

new president does about the economy before changing our position. Our managed portfolios have 15 per cent of their funds in Japan and we are holding that position. We are enthusiastic about the market and also about the smaller Far Eastern markets, where we are recommending a 5 per cent holding.

"The base metals sector is one we believe will do well next year. Many of the producers are selling on low multiples after a period of low prices. But the producers have also rationalized and they do not have much surplus capacity."

The economy will have a soft landing

David Sutherland, investment manager at Scottish Amicable:

"We think the United Kingdom market offers as many good opportunities as any other world market for 1989. We think the economy will have a soft landing, although there is the risk of recession.

"But yields are now averaging around 5 per cent and by the end of the year p/e ratios will be in single figures.

So the UK is not expensive, and could become even cheaper if the City uses any more bad news in the next few months to bash equities again.

"Outside the UK we are also keen on Europe, but we are very unenthusiastic about Japan.

"We think Japanese shares are terribly overvalued and have been for some time. This is not a good basis for buying."

Japanese stocks are good value on asset terms

Dylan Evans, investment marketing director for Target Group:

"We are enthusiastic about Japan, which continues to confound its critics. There are stocks available which are good value on asset terms.

"We have noticed investors falling into three distinct groups this year — cautious, medium- to long-term, and aggressive.

"I am recommending the Japan unit trust for aggressive investors. For the cautious person I am suggesting the Target Preference Share trust. It has an above-average yield.

Medium-term investors can take heart

Martin Trowell, a director, Brown Shipley Investment Management:

"Some market turbulence seems probable over the coming months.

"But British equity investors with medium-term horizons should take heart from three factors. First, the FT All-

Share Index is standing on an undemanding prospective multiple of 9.2 and yield of 5.1 per cent.

"Secondly, being the least restricted stock market in Europe, further activity can be expected on the take-over front. Finally, the interest rate cycle will turn down again."

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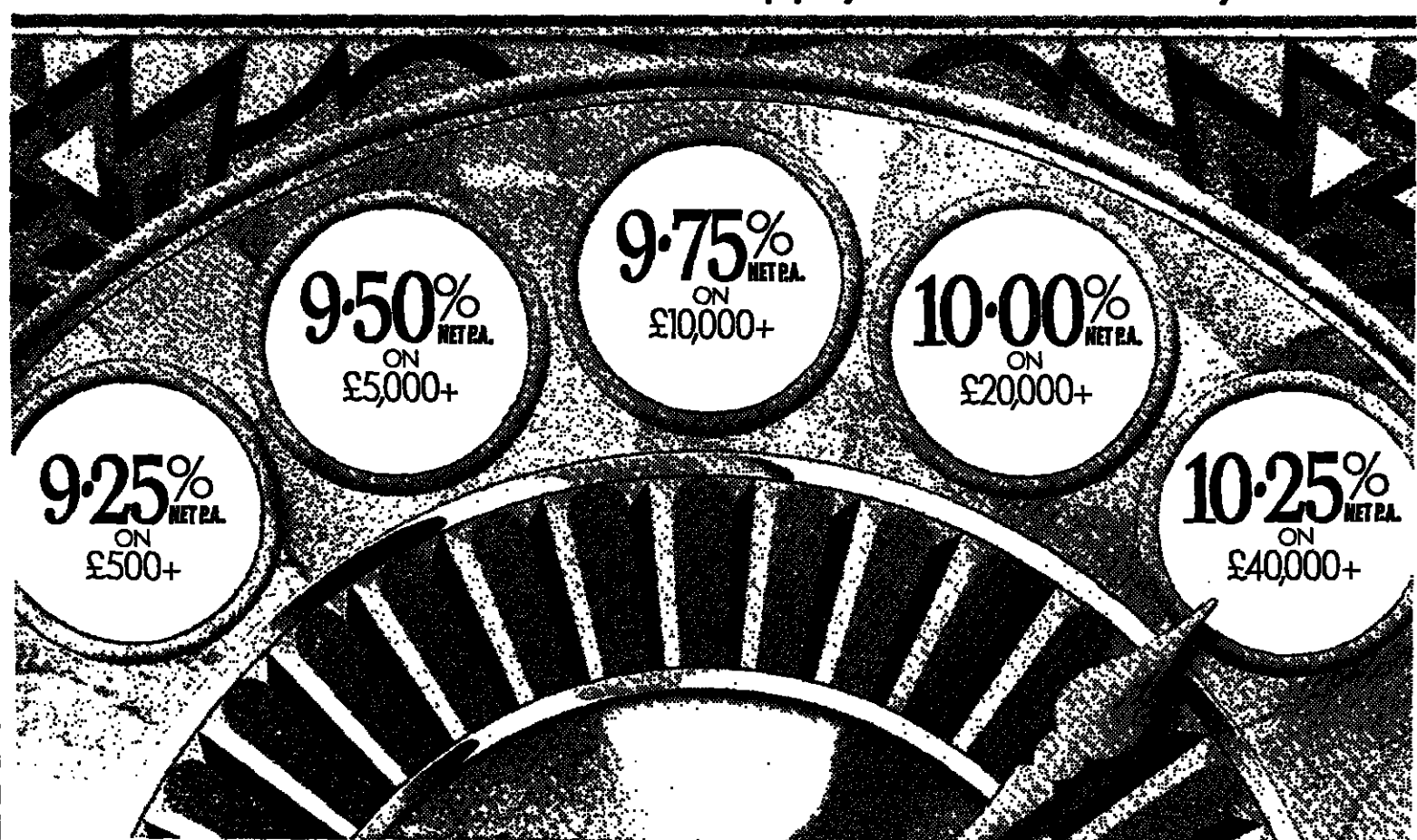
Coopers & Lybrand, the accountants, has produced a new tax planning cassette covering tax changes in the last Budget, investment uncertainty and fluctuating interest rates, planning for retirement, school fees, and the use of trusts in tax planning. It is available, price £3, from PO Box 610 London E16 2AE.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 21).

Stock	1st Dec	2nd Dec	3rd Dec	4th Dec	5th Dec	6th Dec	7th Dec	8th Dec	9th Dec	10th Dec	11th Dec	12th Dec	13th Dec	14th Dec	15th Dec	16th Dec	17th Dec	18th Dec	19th Dec	20th Dec	21st Dec	22nd Dec	23rd Dec	24th Dec	25th Dec	26th Dec	27th Dec	28th Dec	29th Dec	30th Dec	31st Dec
1	+5	+3	+5																												
2	+5	+8	+8																												
3	+3	+4	+4																												
4	+2	+5	+7																												
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39	+5	+3	+4																												
40	+1	+4	+7																												
41	+8	+3	+4																												
42	+5	+7	+8																												
43	+2	+5	+6																												
44	+2	+5	+4																												

These increased rates will apply from January 1st.



Our rates are up at every level.

Woolwich Premium Investment Account

At the Woolwich we are increasing our interest rates so much that you'll find it hard to find a better deal.

That's all the way up from our rate of 9.25% net p.a. for investments between £500 and £4,999 to our very best rate of 10.25% net p.a. for investments of £40,000 or more.

You can choose to have the interest paid annually, or monthly at a slightly lower rate of interest which compounds to the annual rate.

You can take money out on demand. There's no penalty provided £10,000 or more is left in the account. For lower balances, there is a withdrawal penalty equivalent to 90 days' interest on the amount withdrawn.

To make penalty-free withdrawals all we ask is 90 days' written notice.

To get yourself off the ground with the Premium Investment Account you need only £500.

Call in at your local branch to find out more or post the coupon to: Woolwich Equitable Building Society, Department PI, FREEPOST, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 1BR.

Information correct at time of going to press. Rates may vary. All withdrawals are subject to normal branch limits.

Please send me information on the new Woolwich Premium Investment Account. I enclose cheque for £ to be invested in a Premium Investment Account (minimum investment £500), with interest added annually [] or paid as monthly income [] Tick box required. No stamp needed.

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Signature(s) _____



Notice to members C&G Mortgage Rates

Mortgages completed after 1st January 1982 In accordance with the Mortgage Conditions notice is given of the following Mortgage Base Rates

C&G Base Rate 1: 13.50%
C&G Base Rate 2: 13.50%
C&G Base Rate 3: 13.25%

These rates are effective from 31st December 1988. Under the Annual Instalment Review procedure all changes in mortgage rates during 1988, together with the change in the basic rate of income tax, will be taken into account when calculating new monthly mortgage payments from March 1989.

All other mortgages Borrowers will receive

FAMILY MONEY

Victoriana reigns supreme for followers of wooden art

Antiques are both beautiful and a good investment. Conal Gregory names some good bets for 1989

Furniture is the top choice for antiques investment in 1989, with the emphasis on quality Victorian and Edwardian pieces.

Phillips, the auctioneer, has polled its 140 saleroom specialists on the best buys for the New Year, and reports that they expect good appreciation in late 19th century provincial furniture, and such 20th century furniture makers as Gordon Russell, Peter Waals and Ernest Gimson.

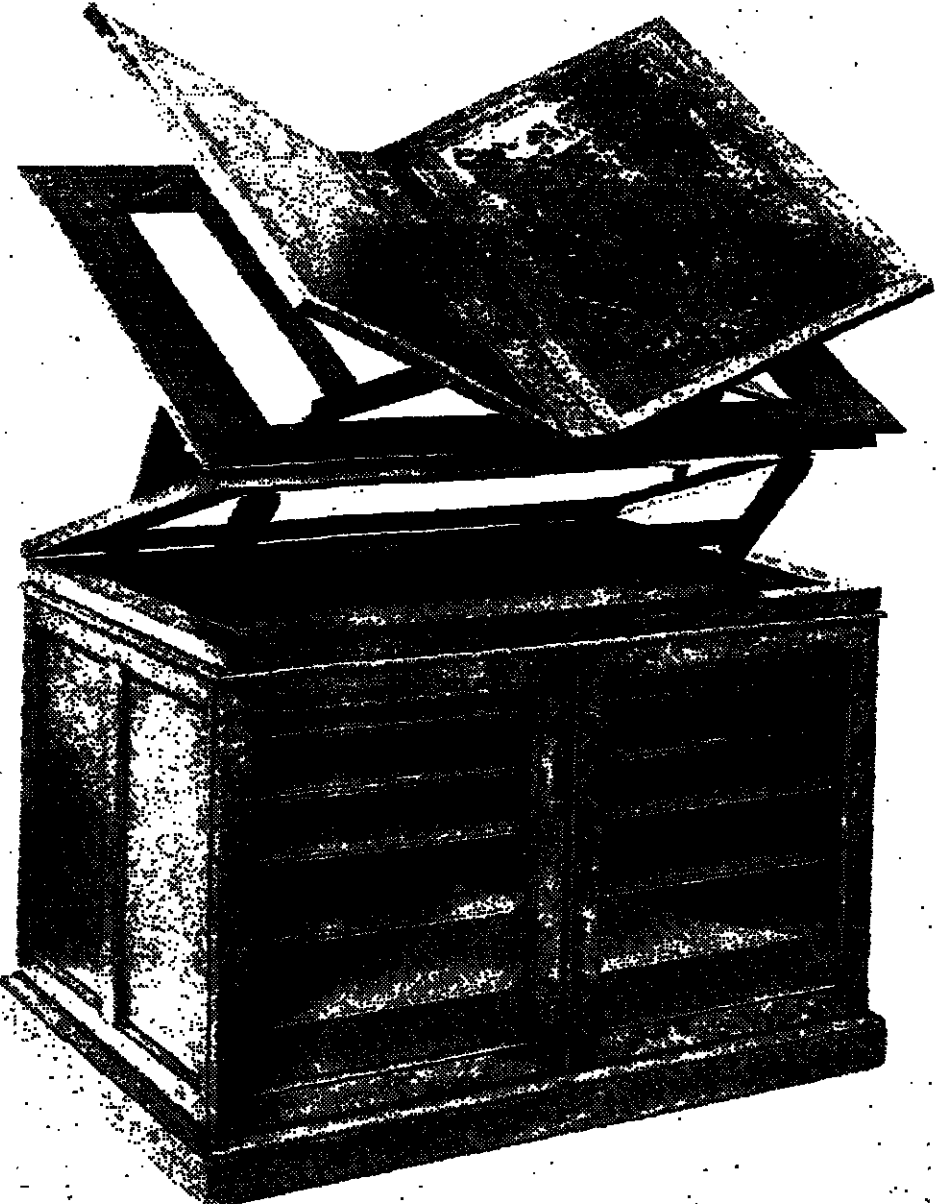
In the past year early oak, fine yew-wood dressers and Windsor chairs have been in demand, as well as large sets of 18th and 19th century chairs. Dealers also reported keen interest in painted and decorative Regency-style furniture from the 19th century. Small examples of quality Georgian furniture, in woods such as walnut, continue to be popular.

Bureau bookcases, particularly the Georgian 'breakfront' style, 18th century mahogany and walnut pieces and tripod tables of the Chippendale era, should all show good returns in 1989.

Single dining chairs and desks, as well as Edwardian inlaid furniture — such as display cabinets, davenport, and satinwood cabinet pieces — are particularly sought after. Glass emerges as the next most popular. Last year Georgian wine glasses, both air twist and opaque twist, were considered "undervalued" and this is still the case. Look for armorial glasses and Japoteutic symbols.

The demand for antique silver continues. From the Victorian era, look for the work of George Fox and Omar Ramsden. Vesta cases, scent bottles, card cases and Oriental objects in silver should all appreciate. Good Georgian and Victorian trays are in demand at prices of up to £15,000, as are coffee pots, wine coasters and candelabra. Mr Keith Grant-Peterkin of Hancock's, the London specialist, says there is still great demand for the top silversmiths, such as Paul Storr and de Lamerie.

In prints, the specialists at Phillips are looking particularly at woodcuts and etchings of the 1920s. In the sporting art world, there is continued interest in the work of JF Herring Senior and H Hall, both of which can be acquired for less than £15,000. For less



Good buy: a Victorian architect's folio table which fetched £13,000 at a recent Phillips sale

than £1,000, look for works by British contemporary artists such as Mary Fedden or Julian Trevelyan.

Cartoons, such as those by Armour, can be bought for less than £1,000, while pastel portraits by William Hoare of Bath may cost up to £5,000. Other good investment tips for 1989 are the fine English watercolourists such as William Wynd and quality landscapes of the Flemish school.

The publicity generated by Hereford Cathedral's *Mappa Mundi* has highlighted the antique map sector. Mr Jonathan Potter, a London dealer, recommends 19th century maps by Moule of the English counties for their decorative qualities, but says that the work of Smith, Carey and Greenwood is probably better value. He says 17th century county maps are "undervalued" and recommends those based on the work of Saxton and Norden, published in 1607. These can be bought, unframed, found for as little as £100-£200.

Attractive samplers, particularly those executed by young children — the age of

the maker is normally woven into the piece — are also tipped, as are modern patchwork quilts. Look for 19th century costumes, as well as kelmans and Caucasian rugs.

In the ceramics field, art deco, Doulton stoneware by minor artists and early maiolica are likely to be in demand. Blue and white Worcester of the 18th century as well as really fine Regency porcelain, continue to increase in value.

Lead soldiers, tinplate toys, rare early German toys and pop memorabilia continue to break new records. For less than £100, look out for doll's house furniture, while early composition dolls can sell for almost five times this sum.

Brass and pewter metalwork from before 1750 is already in demand in many provincial salerooms. Good quality 19th century decorative bronzes, as well as 15th and 16th century German wood carvings are all increasing in value. Finally, important first edition books, theatrical postcards, early writing equipment, tennis memorabilia and mint condition Dinky and Corgi toy cars are also collectors items.

INVEST IN

Furniture under £1,000: Oak coffers; Regency breakfast tables; Georgian mahogany chests of drawers.

£1,000-£25,000: 18th century walnut and mahogany; George III tables; mid-Victorian occasional furniture. Up to £15,000: Bureau bookcases; large dining tables; Queen Anne walnut tailboys. Paintings: Modern British; late 19th and early 20th century watercolours.

Ceramics: English porcelain cups and saucers; 18th century English and Maltese figures. Glass: Pairs of Georgian decanters; good 18th-19th century drinking vessels.

Silver: Snuff boxes; Georgian silver; Victorian trays. Textiles: 18th-19th century fans and lace; Chinese robes; Chinese embroidery.

Coins, Medals: British hammered pennies; World War I gallantry medals. Jewellery under £1,000: Gold bracelets, pearls, turquoises. To £5,000: Diamond-set pendants, art deco rings and clips. To £15,000: Diamond Cartier earrings, diamond jewellery.

Source: Phillips

Socially responsible unit trusts are gaining ground

Investing in the good guys

If, along with all those pledges to "go on a diet" or "be on time," your new year resolutions include a wish to do more to help the environment or your fellow man, then the new breed of ethical unit trusts — which claim to invest money in a socially responsible way — could be for you.

Ethical investment is big business in the United States. "The hippies of the 1960s have become the socially aware investors of the 1980s," says a spokesman for the Social Investment Forum of the US, which estimates that 8 per cent of all US investment is socially screened.

By comparison, Britain lags behind. Less than five years ago, in July 1984, Friends Provident launched Britain's first ethical unit trust. Friends Provident was founded by Quakers, and it was their influence on the board which led to the launch of the trust.

The Stewardship Trust aimed to avoid companies involved with armaments, alcohol and gambling, or connected with oppressive regimes, such as that in South Africa.

Instead, it sought out companies with a good record on labour relations and environmental issues. In its launch

year the fund attracted about £4 million in new funds; it now stands at more than £80 million, and has proved so popular that Friends has launched a Stewardship Income Trust and an American Trust.

All of which proves, says Mr Peter Silvester, investment general manager, that people are more concerned than ever about socially responsible investment. There are now 12 ethical investment funds, and more are likely next year.

Women have the greater social conscience, according to a recent survey by Bromage & Partners, the fund manager, which found that women investors in its Ethical Investment Fund outnumbered men by three to two.

And it seems they are canny investors. "The theory still persists in many circles that ethical investment is the last resort of financial masochists," says Mr David Bromage, the chairman. "But that simply isn't true."

Those who invested in the Stewardship fund when it was first launched would have more than doubled their money by now. And Merit Ecology, one of the newer funds, is among the top 20 best-performing funds in Money

Management's International Growth sector.

This may be because ethical fund managers thoroughly investigate the background of the companies.

"It does take more research, but I believe in the long run our investment decisions are better because we end up knowing the companies so well," says Mr Silvester.

"Also the criteria we are looking for — like good labour relations — are those which make companies successful."

However, knowing exactly what one is investing in is sometimes more difficult to find out. Fidelity's Famous Names, sponsored by the British Medical Association, has one aim — not to invest in tobacco companies. But most of the trusts have a more general brief. So, while they all aim to be socially responsible, the Amity Fund, which is run by Allchurches Investment Management, is the only one which vows to avoid companies which deal with magazine or videos of an explicitly sexual or violent nature.

Although most of the trusts invest in banking and insurance, the Ethical Investment Fund does not, because it feels it is "unable to obtain enough

information on the institutions and organizations to which the banks lend money."

There are other anomalies, such as the fact that while Buckmaster and Moore's Fellowship fund avoids South African investment, Buckmaster

silver is owned by Credit Suisse, which has substantial South African interests.

"The trouble is that ethics are essentially subjective," says Miss Heather Swales of the Ethical Investment Research and Information Service (EIRIS), "which means that you are to a large extent at the mercy of the fund managers' personal ethics."

"Potential investors have to ask exactly which countries are excluded when a fund says it won't invest in those with 'oppressive regimes' or where fund managers draw the line when they say certain areas will be avoided as far as is practicable."

"Otherwise there is a very real danger that as the popularity of this type of fund increases the word 'ethical' could just become another marketing gimmick," Miss Swales adds.

Hilary Doling

Eiris, 70 Bondway, London SW8 (01-735 1351).

INVESTMENT CRITERIA - A COMPARISON OF FUNDS

	Stewardship (Friends Pr)	Fellowship (Buckmaster & Moore)	EIF (Bromage & Partners)	NM Shroder Conscience	Target Global	Ethical Tst (Abbey Life)	Amity Fd (Allchurches)	Merit Ecology
Armaments	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
South Africa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nuclear power	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Political Donations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Experiments on animals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gambling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alcohol	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tobacco	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Exclusion of Banks	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Advertising standards	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Good Labour relations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Protection of the Environment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Exclusion of Weapons	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

* "close link with oppressive regimes" - some funds mention exclusion of fur trade or cosmetic research companies, while others talk about "maintaining a close watch" on companies using animals in pharmaceutical research.

3 UNIT TRUSTS

With over 1,200 unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose?

In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust. M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each:

Recovery Fund for capital growth.

Dividend Fund for increasing income.

Second General Fund for a balance between income and growth.

It would be hard to find three funds with more convincing long-term records. One of them is likely to be the right choice for you.

Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future.

The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	F.T. ORDINARY INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '89	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1970	1,176	857	1,080
1975	2,640	1,112	1,466
1980	10,256	1,729	2,154
1985	27,080	4,947	3,240
20 DEC '88	56,424	6,638	4,020*

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Recovery Fund on 23rd May 1989 would have grown to £53,421 by 20th December 1988 with net income reinvested. * Estimated.

FURTHER INFORMATION: On 20th December 1988

offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

Income Accumulation Yield Spread

Recovery 572-5p 774-1p 4-33% 5-66%

Dividend 549-6p 777-1p 5-48% 5-44%

SECOND 935-9p 1973-0p 3-66% 6-54%

The prices are calculated as at 9.15 am each business day. Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The spread is the difference between the "offer price" (at which you buy units) and the "bid price" (at which you sell). We have a discretion to vary the pricing basis of the units and also the spread within a range, calculated in accordance with statutory regulations. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price. An annual charge of up to 1% of each fund's value — currently 1% for Recovery and Second General and 1.4% for Dividend — plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for Income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

Recovery: Dividend: SECOND

Distributions 20 Feb 15 Jan 15 Feb

20 Aug 20 Aug 15 July 15 Aug

Applications required by 15 Jan '89 20 May '89 2 Jun '89

for next distribution on 20 Aug '89 15 July '89 15 Aug '89

Capital gains tax, 1988/89. An individual's first £5,000 of

realised capital gains will be exempt from tax. Gains in excess of

£5,000 will be added to the individual's other income and taxed at the rates of tax applicable. Gains arising before 31st March

1989 are not subject to capital gains tax and gains since 31st March 1989 are subject to income tax relief.

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for

purchase or sale will be due for settlement by the date shown on the contract note. The Trustee for Dividend and Recovery

is Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wider-range investments and are

authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income from higher yielding shares.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	F.T. ORDINARY INDEX	M&G SECOND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '84	—	—	£1,000	£1,000
1985	£40	£38	1,020	1,000
1970	46	40	1,076	1,000
1975	83	72	1,630	1,000
1980	166	103	2,428	1,000
1985	228	87	6,516	1,000
20 DEC '88	368	80*	10,394	1,000

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Dividend figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Dividend Fund on 6th May 1984 would have grown to £10,394 by 20th December 1988 with net income reinvested. * Estimated.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G Second General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 32 year performance record of which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies and expected yield in line with the F.T. Actuaries All Share Index.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	F.T. ORDINARY INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1960	1,952	1,000	1,167
1965	3,132	2,623	1,597
1970	4,648	3,054	1,742
1975	7,984	3,962	2,366
1980	19,540	6,150	3,476
1985	54,800	17,324	5,429
20 DEC '88	91,108	24,359	5,487*

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Second General figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Second General on 5th June 1956 would have grown to £91,108 by 20th December 1988 with net income reinvested. * Estimated.

Scheme Particulars will be sent with your contract note. However, if you would like the Scheme

Particulars before investing, or the latest fund reports, you can obtain them free of charge from:

M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1LF. Tel: (0245) 286266.

INVESTMENT FROM £1,000

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1LF. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of my choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and SECOND and Income units will be issued for Dividend) at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly. In entering into this contract with M&G you will not have any right to cancel the contract under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1988.

Recovery (MIN. £1,000) £ -00

Dividend (MIN. £1,000) £ -00

SECOND (MIN. £1,000) £ -00

Signature: _____ DATE: _____

Registered in England No. 99776 Reg. Office: Three Quays, London EC3A 6DF. The office is a market in the City of London.

THE M&G GROUP

TAKE THE WORRY OUT OF WHEN TO INVEST WITH M&G's UNIT TRUST SAVINGS PLAN

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £25 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st December 1988 your total outlay of £4,500 would have built up to £8,553. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in M&G SECOND GENERAL Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £25,425, an extra £16,872.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £25. By saving a regular amount you take the worry out of when to invest and can make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

FROM £25 A MONTH

PERFORMANCE FIGURES TO 1 DEC 1988

£25 A MONTH	5 YEARS FROM 1983	10 YEARS FROM 1978	15 YEARS FROM 1973
Amount paid in	1,500	3,000	4,500
M&G Recovery	2,710	10,331	39,998
M&G Dividend	2,402	10,175	29,546
M&G SECOND	2,243	8,826	25,425
Building Society	1,816	4,543	8,553

All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are all realisation values. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1LF.

NO EXTRA CHARGES

NAME: _____ (PRINTED)
SURNAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
POST CODE: _____
JCEA

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1LF.

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ _____ (min £25) each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ _____ (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund circled.

M&G RECOVERY
M&G DIVIDEND
M&G SECOND

The units will be invested in the name of M&G Securities Limited and held for your account under the name of the plan. The plan is an account in the name of the plan and the units will be held in the name of the plan.

The operation of your account will be subject to the Rules of the Plan.

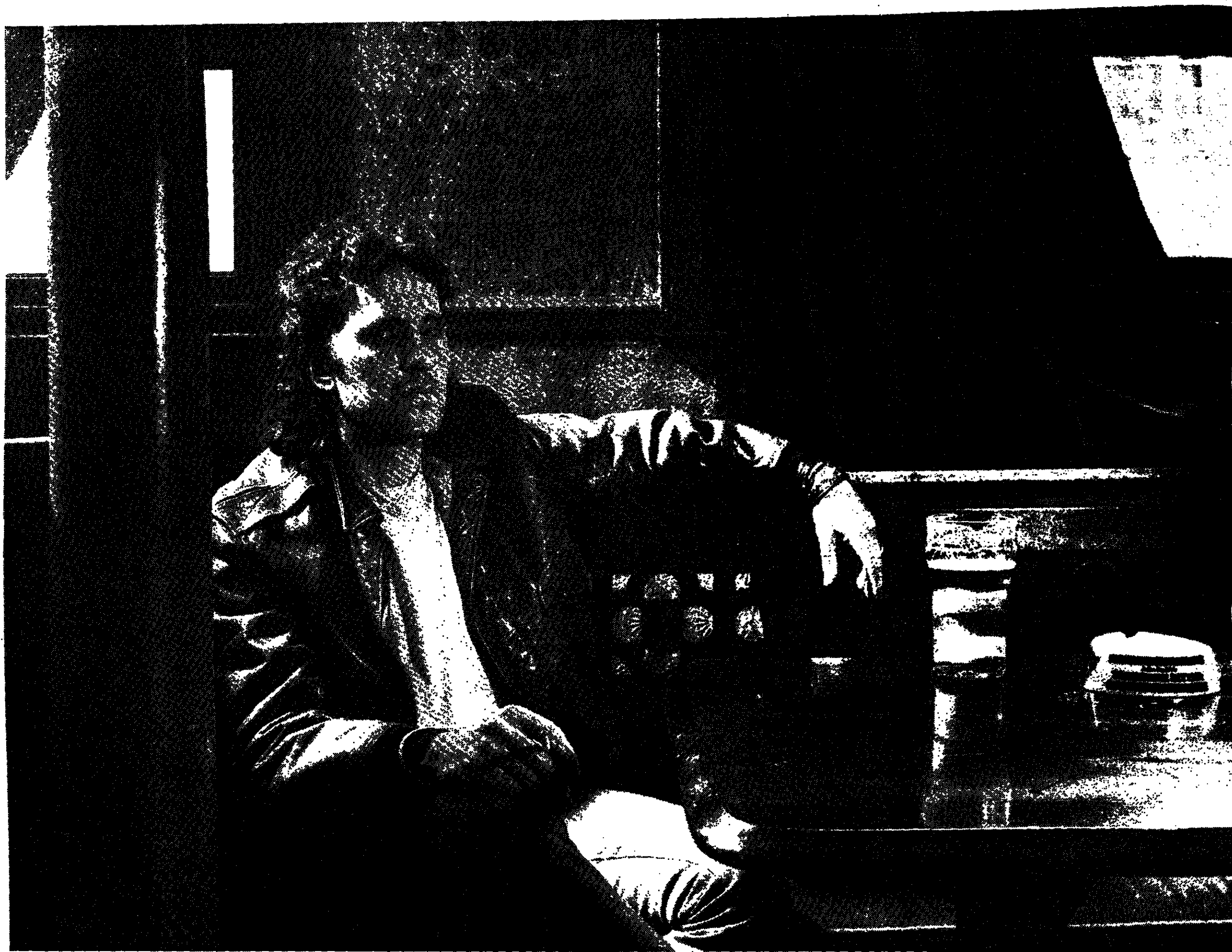
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- DRINK: MORNING-AFTER BLISS
- EATING OUT: JONATHAN MEADES

REVIEW

SECTION 3

SATURDAY DECEMBER 31 1988

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



Why do people give parties? By which I mean parties on a giant scale, great spectacles in the princely tradition with rooms redecorated for the night, whole orchestras playing, extravagant costumes and famous guests.

People entertain like this for various reasons. The film producer Mike Todd facetiously claimed that his rain-soaked Battersea Fundraiser evening in the summer of 1957 was just a get-together "for 2,000 of my closest friends". The true reason is usually to show something off — a new bride, a new house, a milestone in life achieved — or to give a display of magnificence to impress or annoy friends, or to do something memorable or self-congratulatory to mark personal success. There can be no other excuse for such wild overspending on an event that cannot possibly last more than a few hours, and will leave nothing to show for it except a memory, some photographs and a great deal of clearing up. That is a cynical view, for the memory of a good party could last a lifetime. The weeks of preparation and speculation reach a crescendo on the night itself and, in the unnaturally glamorous clothes and unusual settings, people fall in love. The effects of a party can take years to unravel. At the end of the 1971 Rothschild Ball at Ferrières, an hour and a half east of Paris, the film producer Sam Spiegel saw Richard Burton escorting Princess Grace of Monaco down the stairs, heading for the car. He asked: "Where are you going, you two?" Princess Grace admonished him: "For God's sake, Sam, don't say a word to Elizabeth. She's at the ball, she's dancing, she's happy, let us go. Richard will let Elizabeth know. It's going to be a shock but... these things happen." In the hands of two such skilled actors, the one not given to lighthearted repartee, the other presenting a "deliberately stricken-with-guilt face", poor Spiegel was taken in, and was convinced they were eloping.

Guy and Marie-Hélène de Rothschild have been celebrated ball givers for many years, lately in the Hotel Lambert in Paris, and before that at Ferrières. Guy, who has to pay for these, wrote: "Giving a ball is not necessarily the same as having a ball. A brilliant night is preceded by many sleepless ones." The most recent was "Féerie" (fairy-like). In 1972 there was a "Surrealist Ball" for which the château was bathed

Are you going to a party tonight? Will there be scarlet-liveried flunkies?

A star-studded guest list? An entire symphony orchestra playing? Hugo Vickers explores the expensive art of the world's greatest party-givers

In red light, the invitations were inspired by a Magritte sky, the table decorations included a plate made of milk, Mae West's lips and a legless doll, and the pudding was a life-sized naked sugar doll, lying on a bed of equally edible roses. Appropriately, Salvador Dali was among the guests, prematurely seated in a wheelchair.

In December 1971 the Rothschilds gave the "Ball of the Century", to commemorate the centenary of Proust's birth. Many accounts survive, including those of two unusual diarists. Three hundred and fifty guests were bidden for dinner, and as many again to arrive later. Trenches lit the way for many miles and crystal chandeliers were hung outside the château windows on a particularly misty winter night. The men wore white tie, and the ladies adorned their hair with feathers, jewels or flowers. Scarlet-liveried flunkies bearing candelabra lined the long corridor down which the guests passed on their way to a glass of Chateau-Lafite in the tapestry room, filled with mauve orchids.

The main hall had been transformed into Princess Mathilde's winter garden, the ceiling draped with green silk, gathered in a chandelier, the walls transformed into a forest of plants, seen through immense glass trellises. Here was served a "perfectly balanced menu" which included hot chicken broth, fillet of sole with a slice of lobster, chicken stuffed with foie gras and foie de canard, and crisp salad, accompanied by fine Rothschild wines and, later, Chateau-d'Yquem.

Writing in *Vogue*, Cecil Beaton noted: "Only the French would do something on this scale with such dedicated attention to detail." There was surprise that they got away with it a mere three years after 1968. "There would be demonstrations: nails sprinkled on the roads from Paris to puncture the purring automobiles bringing the elite. The much-heralded film star would certainly be waylaid and plundered of her

rocks." Indeed, Elizabeth Taylor was dressed as Valentino's interpretation of the ballerina, Ida Rubinstein (plunging black tulle), with diamonds worth more than two million dollars. She was rivalled by Marisa Berenson as the magnificently bejewelled Marchesa Casati by Piero Tosi, the Italian film star, Elsa Martinelli, in an ivory linen and lace dress of 1910, and Princess Maria Gabriella of Savoy, the belle of the ball, in a Winterhalter gown in dark red and black silk.

According to plan. Dinner started at 9.30pm and by 11, the tables so tightly packed that the waiters could not circle them. Richard Burton, temporarily on the wagon, left an account of the evening in his diary. He found himself seated opposite a man who "looked like a cadaver when still and a failure of plastic surgery when he moved, which was seldom... eyebrowless and eyelash-less and atrociously wigged or dyed with snow-white hair." It turned out to be Andy Warhol. The Duchess of Windsor "had an enormous feather in her hair which got into everything, the soup, the gravy, the ice-cream, and at every vivacious turn of her head it smacked Guy [de Rothschild] in the eyes or the mouth and at one time threatened to get stuck in Guy's false moustache which was glued on... After getting her incredible feather into everything possible she then called in her very penetrating voice, having a desire to write down her telephone number, 'Est-ce que quelqu'un a une plume?'"

Burton described Cecil Beaton as "not very nice in a different way". In turn Beaton left some private notes describing Burton as "butch and coarse as only a Welshman can be", while of Elizabeth Taylor he said: "... her head a ridiculous mass of diamond necklaces sewn together, a

snood of blue pompoms, or black osprey aigrette. Sausage curls. Alexandre, the hairdresser, had done his worst..." Beaton concluded that "few of the guests had ever read *A la Recherche*".

Memorable for its exclusivity and magnificence was Truman Capote's masked Black and White Ball held at the Plaza Hotel in New York in November 1966. In *Cold Blood* had become an instant critical and commercial triumph in January that year after five and a half years of research and writing. As Capote's biographer, Gerald Clarke, put it: "Alexander after the Battle of Issus, Napoleon after Austerlitz could not have been cockier than Truman was after *In Cold Blood*." For weeks the diminutive host sat by a Bridgwater swimming-pool with his notebook, adding and deleting the names of his privileged guests. He decided not to invite President Johnson for fear his party would be overrun by the secret service. He refused to invite the ageing Hollywood film actress Ina Claire, related off in black and white to give the impression they were on their way to the Plaza. The party, based on the Ascot scene in the film of *My Fair Lady*, cost Capote only about \$16,000 because guests came after dinner and were served 450 bottles of Taittinger champagne and a simple buffet at midnight — chicken hash, spaghetti bolognese, scrambled eggs, sausages, pastries and coffee. While some guests wore elaborate and expensive masks exhausting the creative talents of designers Halston and Adolfo, Capote wore a mask costing a mere 39 cents. His party was a success on every level, notably that of publicity.

A rival to Capote in the business of excluding would-be party-goers was the Spanish nobleman Don Carlos de Beistegui. He celebrated his restoration of the Palazzo Labia in Venice by giving a masked ball in 1951 on the theme of the Venice of Casanova, with costumes based on Tiepolo's "Banquet of Cleopatra".

Continued overleaf

Times past: in December 1971 Guy and Marie-Hélène de Rothschild commemorated the centenary of Proust's birth with their "Ball of the Century" at Ferrières château, an hour east of Paris. The 700 guests included (back, left to right) Elsa Martinelli, Baron Alexis de Redé, Hélène Rochas, Marisa Berenson, Vicomtesse de Ribes, Cecil Beaton; (front, left to right) Salvador Dali, Serge Gainsbourg, Jane Birkin, Andy Warhol, the Duchess of Windsor, Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton

Illustration by Lawrence Mynott

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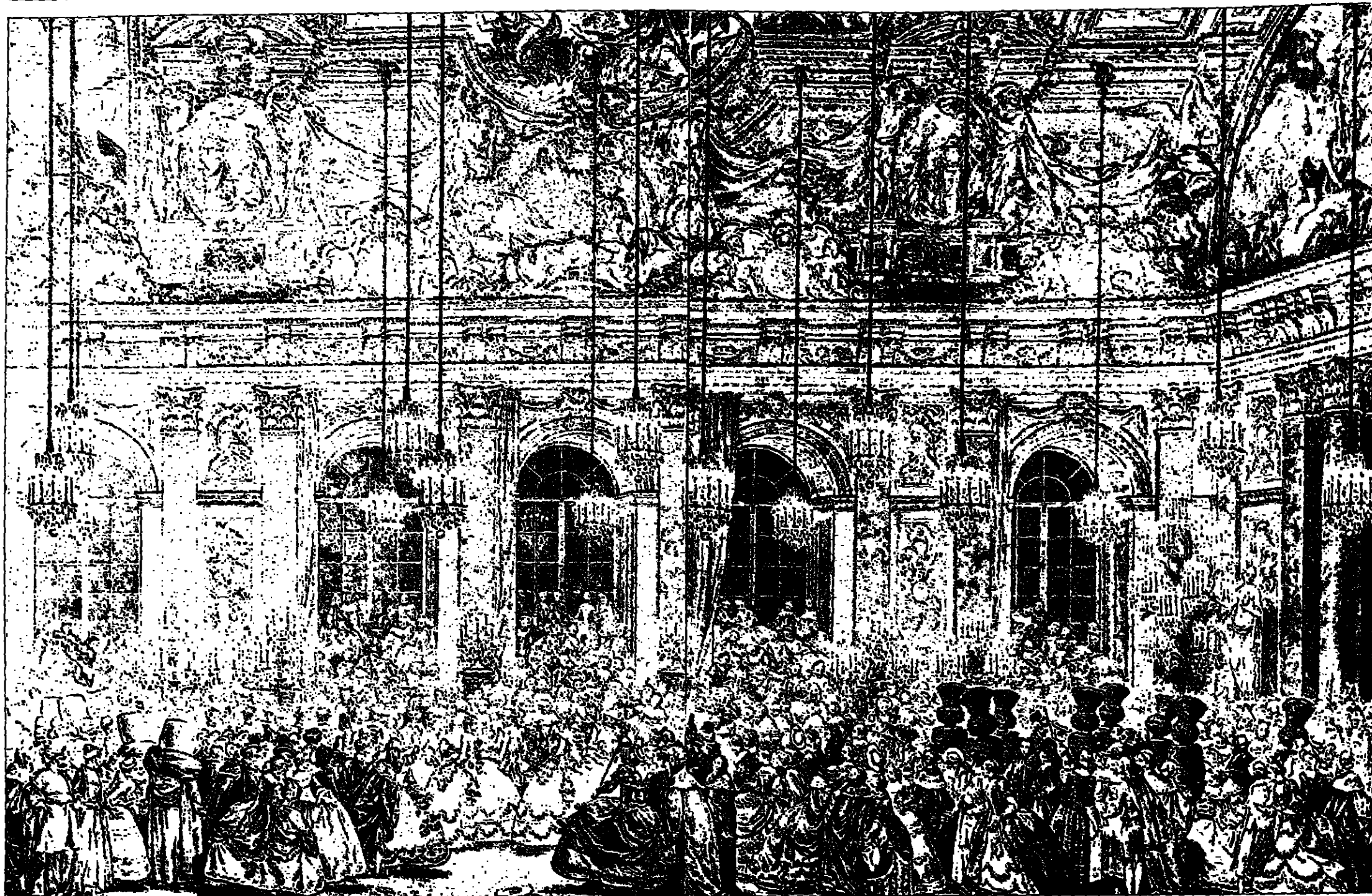
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A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



INSPIRATION FOR THE GREATEST PARTIES OF THE 20th century is drawn from events like this - Le Bal des Iffs at Versailles in the winter of 1745. After the marriage of the Dauphin of France to Maria Teresa, daughter of King Philip V of Spain, in the winter of 1745, a sumptuous costume ball was held in the palace's Galerie des Glaces. One of the eight topiaries on the right was the groom's father, Louis XV; the others, and the eight Turks with giant turbans on the left, were his courtiers. At this party Madame d'Etoiles, later Marquise de Pompadour, observed a topiary approaching, guessed it was the king, and dropped her handkerchief. He picked it up, and soon she became his mistress.

The party followed the tradition of great princely feasts, which included medieval banquets, Renaissance weddings, papal receptions and opera balls. Surely the most magnificent of all was the Field of the Cloth of Gold, when Henry VIII, then just 29, met Francis I of France, aged 26, near Calais in June 1520. The purpose of the spectacle was to so impress the English king that he would form an alliance with France against the Habsburg Emperor, Charles V. A city of tents woven with golden thread was built near Guines castle. Henry arrived with an entourage of 5,000 men, and constructed 800 small pavilions and a palace which contained a fountain of wine. Three weeks of jousting, dancing and feasting followed, but all in vain, as two years later England signed a treaty with the Habsburgs and was again at war with France.

● Painting by Nicholas Cochin (in the Cabinet des Dessins, the Louvre museum, Paris) from *Princely Feasts and Festivals* by Bryan Holme (Thames & Hudson, price £12.95)

Continued from previous page

Guests, who included the Aga Khan and Mrs Winston Churchill, arrived at the canal entrance by gondola. The Baron de Cabrol, a French socialite, played Antony to Lady Diana Cooper's Cleopatra. One particularly rich *arriviste* couple were aboard their yacht with their costumes all ready, not doubting that they would be included at the last minute. But Don Carlos was resolute: "Non, non, non!" and they had no alternative but to sail away. Fear of lack of ready alcohol caused

Diana Cooper to sew a hip-flask pocket into Duff Cooper's costume.

While Beistegui refused to allow guests in, another Venetian hostess had the habit of inviting them and throwing them out later. Countess Volpi sometimes banged her stick on the ground, pointed at a guest and shouted: "Sortez!"

On the hottest summer night of 1983 (the hottest night, in fact, since 1659) Mrs H.J. Heinz gave a ball to celebrate the 75th birthday of her husband. Conveniently, her husband's age was the reverse of the symbol of the Heinz empire,

the "57 varieties". The party was held at Ascot Place, near Winkfield. A Wild West stage-coach conveyed guests to the lake shore and they were then rowed to the foot of the lawn on a barge. Before the house there was a big top, a Ferris wheel and other circus accoutrements, and a lone piper to lead guests to dinner. The Queen, Princess Margaret and Rex Harrison were among the diners. The lawn was a haven of tranquillity during dinner, as the sun set like an orange orb in a perfect sky. The tables and the caves of the house were lavishly

adorned with fruit and vegetables, with Jack Heinz's initials picked out in radishes above the front door. At a given moment the revellers, who had dined elsewhere, appeared from left and right, filling the garden as though directed by Visconti. There was dancing in the big top.

Lord Glenconner's Mogul-style Peacock Ball in Mustique two years ago was a rare occasion when the host was generous to a fault. He paid air fares, he arranged a week-long cruise

from St Lucia to Mustique, he even provided costumes and fitters. All he asked was that the ladies bring their own jewels. *Vanity Fair* described him as "the ringmaster of a crazy aristocratic circus", with guests including Princess Margaret, Raquel Welch and Jerry Hall. None was happier than the host himself. Writer Dominick Dunne reported: "Lord Glenconner's eyes shone with excitement of accomplished creation—a symphony composed, an epic written, a masterpiece painted."

British party-givers on the inter-

national scale are rare, given the requisites of bizarre imagination and great riches. John Aspinall has given many a party, none better than that held at Port Lympne in July 1986. The dual purpose was to celebrate the arrival of a bull rhinoceros from Sumatra and his own 60th birthday. All local hotels were booked at his expense and 450 people dined in an elaborate reconstruction of a Sumatran rain-forest. After dinner the London Symphony Orchestra entertained the guests with a selection of Smetana and Strauss. The bill for the evening was about £400,000.

There is no doubt that when a host gives an elaborate party he sets himself up as a potential target if anything goes wrong. His guests will not be slow to report a catastrophe.

Few, however, will be quite as unlucky as the South African businessman David Heimann (married to Iain MacLeod's daughter) at a party following a family wedding at Hertfordshire House in Buckinghamshire last year. The dance floor collapsed dramatically, injuring some of the guests, but an insurance policy is said to have come to the rescue.

For me, it was **NICKLAUS'** fifth win in '75;
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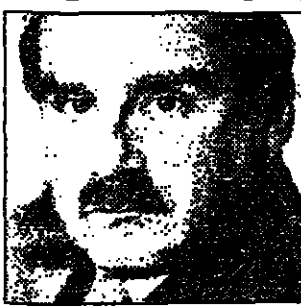
Some **CLASSICS** are beyond debate.



THE EYES OF THE DEAD

GLYNN BOYD HART

FIRST LIGHT by Peter Ackroyd



The latest novel from the author of *Hawksmoor* and *Chatterton* will be published in the spring — this is the last of six extracts appearing this week in *The Times*

Part 6: An archaeologist, Mark Clare, enters the tumulus at Pilgrin Valley in the dead of night. In a chamber he discovers an ancient coffin which he believes will reveal the secret of the passage grave. But here lies the origin of Farmer Mint and his family, and they come at night to retrieve it before the archaeologists can claim it.

So the Mints bring the coffin to Joey Hanover who has discovered that he belongs in this area, too, and that he is a relative of the Mints. He has found his origins, too. And as the Mints contemplate what to do with their ancient burden, Joey tells them a story.

Once upon a time, and it was a very long time ago, there were spirits all over the earth. Spirits of the rocks, spirits of the streams, spirits of the forests. And in those days the people of Wessex worshipped them. There is a field by the shore, just beyond Lud Mouth, and in that field you can still see a piece of black stone so deeply embedded that no one has ever been able to prise it loose: this was where water and grain were left for the spirits, and it is still known as the offering-stone. But there were other spirits, evil spirits who came from beneath the earth. It was said that the noises of the people walking over the ground enraged these spirits, and so they tried to lead the inhabitants of this region off the edge of high precipices or into the deepest pits. They wanted to destroy them so that they could sleep undisturbed.

Now these spirits could fly. They did not live in one place only but soared and skimmed through the great caverns beneath the earth — which is why, if you put your ear to the ground, you can sometimes hear a rustling as of wings. They could even fly up from the earth into the outer air through the great portals which human beings cannot see but, because they were hated by the spirits of the forests and of the streams, they could not hover near the surface but had to fly further up into the clouds or soar, higher yet and higher, into the firmament. There are some people who claim to see them still, whenever there is a quick movement across the sky.

It was mid-summer long ago and, in the old stone village of St Gabriel, many of the men and women were sleeping out of doors and beneath the open sky. It was a small village but of course there were children — some say 12, some say more. Naturally the evil spirits hated children and that night, as the villagers slept beneath the stars, they plotted together; they circled above their heads, sometimes hooting like owls and sometimes barking like foxes, as they schemed and planned. This is what they did. At the stillest hour of night, in the dead time, when all the beneficent spirits were resting within their rocks or streams or forests, they hovered for a little while and then fluttered down to earth at the spot where the children lay. One evil spirit crawled up to the first child and whispered in his ear: "Leave your parents and come with me. I will teach you to fly, and together we will explore all the bright stars which shine above your head." Then a second spirit touched the shoulder of another child and whispered, "Come with us. We are your real family because, like you, we know what it is to be free. We will take you with us into the skies, and show you the mysteries of the heavens." A third spirit awakened a child with the tip of his wing and murmured, "Why lie down on the hard earth when you can be floating on the soft air? Leave your parents and come with us."

No one knows if these children were tired of the arduous life they were forced to lead, or if they had been dreaming of the stars even as the evil spirits whispered to them, or if they were entranced by some other means; but, whatever the reason, they rose up together and were led by the evil spirits to the edge of St Gabriel's cliff. Then the spirits flew above them and, by trailing their wings, they made the sky seem more bright and glorious than the children had ever seen it before. The children clapped their hands, but softly so as not to wake their fathers and mothers, and the spirits smiled at one another secretly before they told them that they could fly, too. "You will all fly with us," they whispered. "And there is only one condition."

"Tell us what we must do," the children begged. "Tell us what we must do!"

"You must start a new life. You will leave the earth for ever and dwell among the stars, but if you set foot on earth again you will be turned to stone." Now the spirits murmured this very quickly, and it is said that some of the children never heard their warning; what they did hear was the excitement

of flying upwards into the firmament, and what they saw was the wonder of the night sky. "What shall we see? What shall we see?" a little girl asked them. "This is the greatest wonder of all," the chief spirit replied. "You will see whatever you wish for. You will see what you wish to see."

Of course the children became very excited at this, and all of them began clamouring to be taken up, so one by one the spirits lifted them onto their wings — and so light were these wicked spirits that it seemed to the children that they themselves were flying. At once they were soaring above the fields and the forests which they knew so well; higher and higher until their houses and their families were no more than grains of sand, upward and upward, until they recognized nothing but the stars beneath their feet. But now it began to grow very cold, and the children shivered. "Where are the stars?" one of them asked, and another called out, "Where is the sun which warmed us on the earth?"

And then one spirit replied, laughing, "You will see whatever you wish for."

And another echoed, "You will see only what you wish for." But in truth the children had wished for nothing and had expected nothing. They had only wanted for one moment to escape, to fly away from their hard lives. In fact, some of them did not know what a wish was, and around them now were cold, and darkness, and mist. "Let us down," the little girl cried.

"Take us back," her brother yelled.

"But you know the condition? If you touch the earth again?"

"We want to go home!" The children were now too frightened to care, and they wanted only to leave this terrible place.

"If that is your real wish, then so be it." The spirits quickly dropped through the air, lower and lower they flew so that the children put out their hands towards the familiar forests and hills, down and further down so that the children could even make out the old village of St Gabriel. They came so close that they could see the sad faces of their sleeping parents but, as soon as the evil spirits came back to St Gabriel's cliff, they tossed the children from their backs. And when they fell onto the earth, they were at once turned into stone. Twelve of them, forming a circle on the margin of the sea. This was the end of the children's journey away from home.

And as Joey finishes his story the archaeologists come to claim the coffin as their "find". The Mints keep them at bay while Joey goes into the garden in order to burn it. To set it free.

Joey Hanover opened the shed and knelt down beside the old wooden coffin. He traced the carved words on its side with his finger and then he said out loud, "I am the last person. I am the last person on earth to talk to you. Your presence is coming to an end."

The coffin was too cumbersome to lift and so he dragged it along the floor of the shed into the garden; then he stood up, panting. "I have to see you," he said. "After thousands of years, someone has to see your face. You can't leave us without being seen." With a deep sigh he went back into the shed, and came out with a hammer and chisel. He looked over his shoulder at the house, almost in embarrassment, but then he saw with relief that Floey had drawn the curtains. Very carefully he put the chisel into the worn groove of the coffin and hammered it home, drawing it upwards and creating a small chink or cavity in the wood. There was no noise. He had expected a sound like some vast intake of breath, but the coffin was silent; he had the strangest feeling that someone was waiting for him. He worked around the edge of the coffin, prising it open very gently wherever he could and at last it was free.

For a moment he could not open it. He knelt upon the hard ground and, with bowed head, put his hands upon it. "Forgive me," he said. Then he raised the lid.

He saw him. The body was not lying crouched, as the silhouette had depicted. A small human form was lying upon its back, the thin arms and hands crossed upon the breast. And, when Joey felt able to look at the face, the hollowed eyes seemed to be gazing out at him almost in pity. Then something began. Joey stared in surprise at the withered face and limbs because they were being joined by some other force — as he might have stared at a radio which suddenly began to transmit music. There were voices. Joey turned and turned about, his hand over his mouth. They were human voices but they had some different note within them, and at this moment it seemed to Joey that

these were the original voices — voices which had known speech but not writing. Like sky without clouds. And as he gazed at the small figure other sounds began to encircle him or, rather, thoughts raised into sound as a sleeper rises after a dream and talks.

Time. Another time. He lifts up his hands to the sky and his voice rises above the valley, calling the animals with their own notes, making the noise of water and the sound of trees in the wind. For in this world sound is the soul of all things, and it rises through him. The leader. In delirium he makes the sound of stone which is the sound of prophecy. He tells them of their dreams; he raises his hands and speaks to them. We are so close to the beginning that we have dreams of origin and of the darkness from which we come. That is why we try to reach the light above our heads. He tells them of the sky. He raises his hands and tells them of the night. They are not fires above us but souls, the souls of those who came before us and light our way. They are the eyes of the dead, always watching. They are our hopes: that is why they are so distant and why there is darkness amongst them. They are the word for far. They are the word for dream. You must make your own fires in the same pattern. Place your fires here, in the valley, in the pattern of the sky. And so make the stars your homes.

Joey hears all this and weeps. He turns about and time turns about him; he puts out his hand, bewildered, towards the coffin. But the coffin is no longer there. Time turning. There is a time, he says, there is a time when the seven blue fires rise above the horizon and the red eye watches over them. They mark the time of warmth, and to make this time return you must carve them into the stone. Carve their pattern into the stone. Sky stone. In the valley of the seven stars. I have chosen this place. I have chosen the earth and chosen it. I have chosen the powerful green glowing upon the hilltop, and I have chosen the sacred avenue beneath the earth. Build here. Purify the ground with fire and walk out the circle. Measure the ground which brings on trance and prophecy. Build the house of stone within the circle. And bring me to this place when I am called away from you. So the stones were carved from the sea's edge, lifted and carried along the wooden ways, a passage burnt before them through the vagrant paths of stream and forest and hillside. Shuffling of feet and singing. They build the house of stone. Pointing one way. Only one way. Beneath. And only he may walk the avenue under the earth.

Time. More time. The indivisible moment of his parting from us. He died and we changed the silence with our cries. Lamentation on the brow of the hill. An absence. A curving inwards. And so we carried him along the valley, in a casket of carved wood. Smoke in the far distance to greet the procession, and the animals bow their heads towards the earth in homage. The birds rise from their trees, wings upon wings. He is led to his last home, miraculous journey under the ground in which the guide must die.

He who led us touches hands with the one before him, and touches hands with the one who follows. Like the circling stars and the circling generations of the earth. Locked within the circle. A testament. We lift our hands high, palms outward, facing the sun in honour of him who goes down.



'Joey turned and turned about, his hand over his mouth. They were human voices but they had some different note within them'

Joey's mouth: he was singing as the coffin and the ancient body were consumed in the fire. Floey helped Martha into the room, and all of them watched as the smoke rose into the sky. The Mints saw it, too. They put down their pitchforks and stood in the middle of the garden. Hermione joined them, alongside Owen and Julian. All of them watching the smoke flowing into the air.

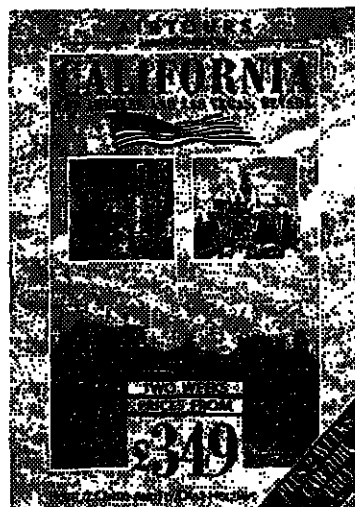
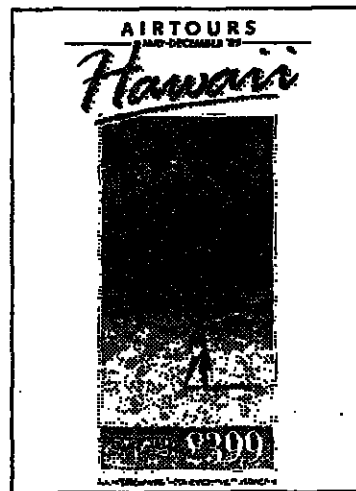
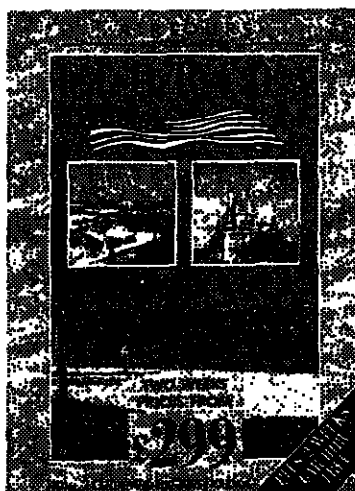
And suddenly Evangeline knew that her father was standing beside her, smiling, she turned to him. She talked to him, but she made no sound. Mark was with Kathleen again, as he knew he always would be. Joey put his arms around his parents who had returned to him at last. And Hermione was surrounded by the children of St Gabriel, the children who had once tried to fly. The Mints did not need to turn around to know that there were others with them, too, a whole concourse of people who stood and watched silently. But they felt no fear. It was as they had always been told. No one is ever dead, and at this moment of communion a deep sigh arose from the earth and travelled upward to the stars.

Now they were alone again. And now they are children, their parents standing behind them and resting their hands lightly on them. And now they are also old, tired of the earth and longing for sleep. The years brushed past them lightly, like the wings of wings. All this happened in a moment out of time, and out of time it was gone. "It's all over," Farmer Mint said to his son, as he watched the smoke growing paler and paler. "He's safe now."

They fell silent as the ancient form flew upwards into the air — high above Lud Mouth, above St Gabriel's Cliff, above Swithin's Column, above Pilgrin Valley and his resting place there. He had been released at last. He had returned to the frame of origin. The ashes rose into the sky, higher and higher, rising towards Aldebaran and the other stars, until eventually they faded into the light.

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THE ARTS 1

In the shadow of the mosque

In the long shadows of the old mosque which overlooks Tiemcen, Cheb Khaled turns up the volume of a Barry White tape, pulls back the soft top of his black Peugeot convertible and heads off in the direction of Studio Rachid and Fethi to record a new song.

Tiemcen, a sleepy and conservative town in the north west of Algeria, surrounded by hills and less than 40 miles from the Moroccan border, is a most unlikely site for Algeria's only 24-track recording studio. Late at night, the streets are deserted save for police cars. At closedown, television screens display extracts from the Koran, but at Studio Rachid and Fethi the J&B whisky is flowing and there is a party mood as yet another track is recorded for the insatiable cassette market that fuels the popularity of Rai music.

Paris was the first European city to acquire a taste for Rai, a hybrid of Algerian music with influences from Morocco, black Africa, Spain, reggae and the electronic colouration of new musical technology. Throughout the Eighties, Paris has steadily grown in importance as a creative and business centre for pan-African and Antillean music. The additional presence of a large immigrant north African community in the Goutte d'Or quartier, along with the thirst for fresh exotica among chic white Parisians, has made the rise of Rai an inevitability.

For Khaled, the so-called King of Rai, Paris is a holiday, an opportunity to visit family, but it is also a rendezvous for musicians. He has found common bonds with Alpha Blondy, the reggae singer from the Cote d'Ivoire, and Mory Kanté, the Mali singer whose *Yéyé Yéyé* was an international hit last summer. Khaled has recorded with Les Rita Mitsouko, one of the very few French pop groups with any degree of international reputation. A project with Mory Kanté is planned, and *Kutche*, the hi-tech collaboration between Khaled and composer Safy Boutella, will be released in Britain in February.

Kutche is produced by Martin Meissonnier, the Frenchman who added modern studio effects to the records of Nigerian juju music star King Sunny Ade. For Khaled he has assembled musicians from Zaïre, Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria, Britain and the United States for an intriguing electro-ethnic stew.

The scenario is a familiar one. A vibrant local music, already a

A small, conservative town is home to Algeria's only major recording studio, from where a band of pioneers exports a little-known form of popular music, Rai. David Toop reports



The Phil Spector of Rai: Rachid Baba outside the studio in Tiemcen which he founded with his brother, Fethi, once his partner in a Seventies duo, and which now bears their names

hybrid full of its own iconoclasms, yet with a backbone of integrity which is perhaps only truly comprehensible to the original audience, is thrown headlong into the international market place. With each new visit to the market centres of Paris, London or New York comes new contacts, new influences, new techniques, new ideas about business practice or songwriting or stagecraft, and new purchases of digital samplers, drum machines or studio gadgetry. Before too long the music arrives at a crisis point: the musicians forge ahead too fast for their home audience yet the new European audience is hungry for ever more sensational fusions.

Rachid Baba has been called the Phil Spector of Rai. The comparison is not entirely apt since it is hard to imagine the tycoon of teen,

despite all his eccentricities, affecting the top to bottom Fidel Castro image of Rachid. Possibly the presence of an army barracks directly opposite Studio Rachid and Fethi is an influence on this military style, or perhaps the militant periods of rock and reggae have played their part. Inside the studio, pride of place is given to a large John Lennon collage and a photograph of Bob Marley. A star is encased in the double glass between the control room and the live room in which Khaled is singing his first run-through of a new recording.

In the control room Rachid is at the hub of a chaos of music, gossip, subtle business dealings and occasional dancing. Fourteen people cram themselves into the small space: various helpers and hangers-on and family members, a

shady looking cassette mogul with his wife, and a 14-year-old singer called Anouar who has already recorded a religious song with Cheb Khaled. One of Rai's biggest stars — Chaba Fadela — sits against the back wall talking with Khaled's wife, sometimes standing up to dance and sing, while her husband — Cheb Sahraoui — plays keyboards. As is the custom with Rai, Cheb Khaled introduces many of these participants over the opening keyboard bars before the singing begins.

Meanwhile, Rachid, the 42-year-old innovator of Rai, begins the work of shaping the speedily recorded raw track into a spacious mix of passionate vocals, synthesizers, Arab percussion, bass guitar overdubs, thunderous electronic drums and haunting digital samples of Japanese flutes. Some-

thing of a one-man show, Rachid is rather imperious about other Rai producers. He will listen to the work of others, simply to make sure that the competition is still floundering in the past. He also claims to be too busy to listen to any other music, though the influence of Jean-Michel Jarre rises to the surface at times.

As a young man, Rachid played guitar in the group called the Vultures, who specialized in cover versions of Rolling Stones songs. Rachid's father played classical Andalusian music on the *rebab*, a two-string violin, but initially discouraged his son's musical inclinations, preferring that the boy joined the family workshop as a jeweller.

With his brother Fethi, Rachid enjoyed some success in the Seventies in a duo which played

Western pop but sang in Arabic. During this time he took up keyboards and began studying the techniques of recording music. He was the first to bring a Moog synthesizer to Algeria, making Tangerine Dream style musical experiments. In the late Seventies he built his own eight track studio, again the first in the country.

"Around 1978, 1979," says Rachid, "when the young singers — the Chebs — started in Oran, a friend of mine came from Oran and listened to the experiments in electronics I was doing. He said to me: 'You should do something with these Chebs.' The first one was Cheb Hamid. He came to my studio and we made a cassette which was a big hit. That was the first time we put a sticker on the cassette which said Pop-Rai." Pop-Rai, pioneered by Rachid

and Hamid, Cheb Khaled and Chaba Fadela, with veteran trumpet player Messaoud Bellemou, is a music that reflects the predominantly youthful population of Algeria. Khaled, now 28, began playing music at the age of eight, learning the harmonica, harmonium, and accordion in quick succession. He then switched to singing to record his first single at the age of 14. By reputation a hard-drinking, unreliable and volatile man, Khaled in person is an endlessly good humoured character with a Lionel Richie haircut. "My father was a *shic*," he laughs. "He fought me and beat me. He wanted me to be a doctor, a lawyer, a magistrate. To be a musician was to rebel against society."

Given the serious rioting in Algeria last October, much of it in Oran, it is difficult to persuade anybody to discuss the rebellious aspects of Rai. But Rai singers have chosen taboo subjects, like sex and alcohol.

"Rai is not contrary to religion," says Khaled. "You're not supposed to talk about alcohol even if you come home drunk. The problem is to be able to talk about things. Now it is more open in Algerian society. In the past, the father would listen to the music and switch off when the children came home."

The word Rai means "opinion", and the modern roots of the music go back perhaps to the Twenties. Chaba Fadela is amused to be asked whether her parents resisted her singing career. "Many of the great original Rai singers were women," she says.

Fadela's reputation has been stormy, as if in homage to a strong deep-voiced female singer of the Fifties like Cheikha Rimitti, whose songs about sex, virginity, and marriages caused scandals in their time.

What is important in Rai, however, is the quality of the voice. For Cheb Sahraoui, a conservatory trained musician, Rai singing is like the blues. Embellish it with new technology and cross-cultural experiments, but judgement will always fall on the voice. Rai was started by friends on the streets, playing for weddings and other special occasions. "With technology or without technology," Cheb says with optimistic finality, "Rai will never change. It is our music. Algerian music, and we can do what we want with it."

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword

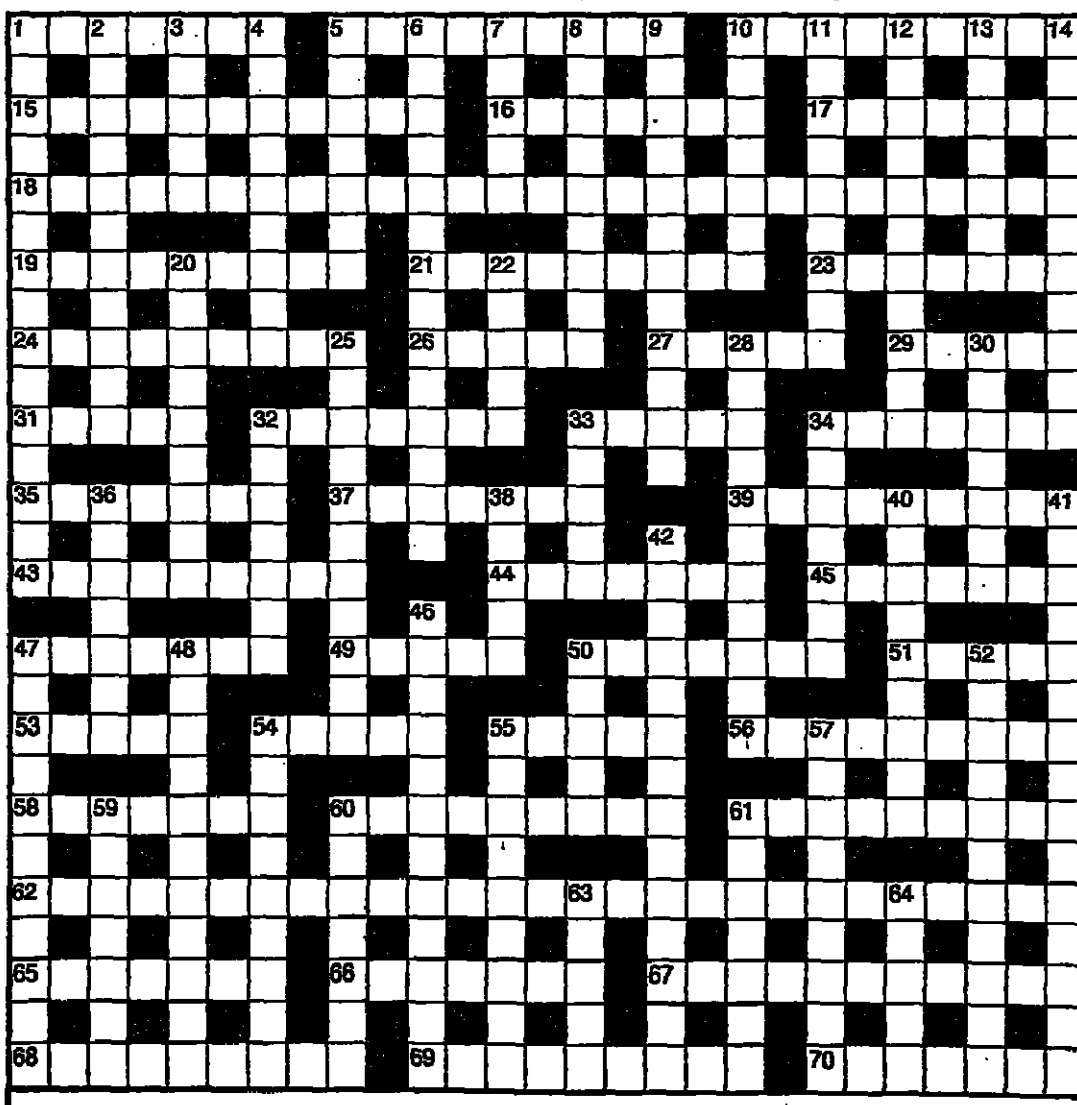
ACROSS

- 1 Give a big hand to a couple of pages leading the archbishop (7).
- 5 Character of Sheridan, calculating type —, poisonous creature (4-5).
- 10 Fish club produces a brace of builders (5-4).
- 15 Cape Horn wreck — remote repair needed for time machine (11).
- 16 Is against involvement with an unmarried mistress (7).
- 17 National, after a loss, creates a menace for the worker (3-4).
- 18 When "London burnt like rotten sticks" (2,7,7,3,5-3).
- 19 Hero's job (9).
- 21 Revelations recorded on film (9).
- 23 Shakespeare's duke uses the revised version (7).
- 24 Like the drug made up for the twitch by Thorndike's doctor? (9).
- 26 State, finally, correct answer (5).
- 27 Murphy travelling by underground? (5).
- 29 Follow directions given by leaders of United Europe (5).
- 31 Rich embroidery made poet-craftsman William lose his head (5).
- 32 Desert ship, returning to Arthur's place (7).
- 33 One isn't sure to be affected by it (5).
- 34 To take something away Edward holds vehicle in reverse (7).
- 35 Vessel shows a measure of speed, taking gold with a finish (7).
- 37 Lethean complaint of men wandering in the East (7).
- 39 Judgment summons — could finally clinch the contract? (4,5).
- 43 Restyling her (French fashion) and me with glossy coats (9).
- 44 Dangerous embrace of Mishe-Mokwa, avoided by Mudjekeewis (4-3).
- 45 Said to be strongly affected by advance of government funds (7).
- 47 Girl goes to sign for New Year gifts (7).
- 49 To eat away, "e went by bicycle (5).
- 50 Right transport we hear for 1903 (7).
- 51 Name of French queen after one moved to leading position (5).
- 53 "Hyperion to a —" (*Hamlet*) (5).
- 54 Continue to play part of historian in West London (5).
- 55 One playing in Selima's absence? (5).
- 56 Girl has an awful transformation coming out of it (7-2).
- 58 Lion's star for Roman consul (7).
- 60 Let us open redistribution of so abundant a supply (9).
- 61 Toady's refusal to accept poor copy (9).
- 62 Fruit of the tree that interested the Infanta (1,6,6,3,1,6,4).
- 65 Understanding some student entertained (7).
- 66 Eat in recess here — change of diet (catch in this) (7).
- 67 Into which a future ruler of the Queen's Navee was taken by a law firm (11).
- 68 One grievously persecuting men in high places (9).
- 69 Warbler where lake-side plants grew dense perhaps (5-4).
- 70 Marine organism found in English church in America (7).

DOWN

- 1 Copies a chapter I revised — *The Office* of Saint Augustine (15).
- 2 Man of the world as one of John Wesley's congregation (11).
- 3 Add on an unknown quantity, say (5).
- 4 Utmost effort to describe the worst of Kipling's gentlemen-rankers (9).
- 5 "Is thick inlaid with — of bright gold" (*Merchant of Venice*) (7).
- 6 "And that's your lot" says the gypsy after this (7-7).
- 7 This ale Barker thus publicized (5).
- 8 What chemists and faith-healers did with drugs? (9).
- 9 He provides courses for the others on psychic emanation — true? False (12).
- 10 Orbital points perhaps I describe in this (7).
- 11 One butchered to make a Roman holiday (Byron) (9).
- 12 Northern bird in the air (for instance) — that's his due (11).
- 13 Note outcome of the second edition (7).
- 14 What something isn't to be (3-8).
- 20 Head of survey chose to include its variety of foliated rock (9).
- 22 Leapt wildly into the fold (5).
- 25 Remark about Moslem leader and a Sinai issue (11).
- 28 Holder and recipient of drink provide material for the former (6-5).
- 30 Height of the sculpture's about right (7).
- 32 Charles receives one pound raised for wine (7).
- 33 Many a legendary Hindu hero in play (5).
- 34 Change of speed needed to capture it notwithstanding (7).
- 36 Poet's musical companion (nice if he were to receive money) (7).
- 38 Weapon sharp as an old tiger's tooth (5).
- 40 Excellent at university, replenishing one's drink supply (7,2).
- 41 Chapter in the incompletely revised work, Java Man (15).
- 42 Flagellant fish is an insignificant little fellow (14).
- 46 Cancels order for shop-fitting, and in writing (12).
- 47 Master has a mind converted to pacifist policy (11).
- 48 Ko-Ko's objection to Nanki-Poo's mention of the flowers that bloom in the spring (11).
- 50 Italian philosopher of upper class in Moravian capital (5).
- 52 Subject, English — 400 years ago or today (11).
- 54 Jack's inclination to take in gold like a sponge (9).
- 55 Made less of a midget, it might appear, (9).
- 57 Part of grammar least popular with motorists by the sound of it (9).
- 59 Grand lot of puppies Sparkle produced (7).
- 60 Small place below for the loot (7).
- 61 Pouch of 31 is lost in bridge (7).
- 63 This relation would appear pleasant if heartless (5).
- 64 The old premier was right into oriental 33 down (5).

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, January 16. Entries should be sent to The Times New Year Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, January 21.



Name _____

Address _____

SOLUTION TO NO 1758

(yesterday's Concise crossword)

ACROSS: 1 Diddle 4 Labret 9 Explore 10 Pearl 11 Oust 12 Impostor 14 Tetchy 15 Malign 18 Ordinary 20 Dime 22 Neath 23 Nothing 25 Scenic 26 Chalet
DOWN: 1 Doe 2 Deposit 3 Lion 5 Approval 6 React 7 Tolerance 8 Jemmy 11 Outgoings 13 Shanghai 16 Initial 17 Crone 19 Drape 21 Rich 24 Get

CHRISTMAS JUMBO ENTRIES

Readers are reminded that entries for the Christmas Jumbo published on Christmas Eve — for which there are also five prizes of £50 — must arrive not later than first post on Monday, January 9. Entries must be sent to The Times Christmas Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, January 14.

Concise Jumbo Crossword

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear on Monday

ACROSS

- 1 Old county division (7)
- 5 Joint immobility (9)
- 10 Underwriter's re-insured list (9)
- 15 Rearrange deal (11)
- 16 Base, despicable (7)
- 17 Guided (7)
- 18 English "Civil War" examination" painting (4,3,4,4,3,4,6)
- 19 Harshly, noisily (9)
- 21 Kidney inflammation (9)
- 23 Added points (7)
- 24 Forcing rooms (9)
- 26 Close by (5)
- 27 Ballots (5)
- 29 Vision (5)
- 31 Cleaner (5)
- 32 Quits (7)
- 33 Swelling (5)
- 34 Water boiler vessel (7)
- 35 Got away (7)
- 37 Force into servitude (7)
- 39 Straight establishment (5,4)
- 43 Beach wind racer (4,5)
- 44 Spinner's stick (7)
- 45 Loose snow state (7)
- 47 Personal standing (7)
- 49 Industrial leader (5)
- 50 Troublemaker (7)
- 51 Disgusting dirt (5)
- 53 Obsessively excited (5)
- 54 Brightness (5)
- 55 Hair weave (5)
- 56 Clustered flower shrub (9)
- 58 Current meter (7)
- 60 Consistency (9)
- 61 Impaired speech co-ordination (9)
- 62 Ford Prefect novel (11,5,2,3,6)
- 65 Holdable (7)
- 66 Feeling (7)
- 67 Existence ever (7,4)
- 68 Able (9)

DOWN

- 69 Smartly (9)
- 70 Protects against attack (7)
- 1 Fanatical followers (4,11)
- 2 Unsubstantiated conclusion (3,8)
- 3 Fumed (5)
- 4 Computer plates (4,5)
- 5 Body structure (7)
- 6 Russian politics specialist (14)
- 7 Crotch (5)
- 8 Left-handed (9)
- 9 From personal viewpoint (12)
- 10 Britany inhabitants (7)
- 11 Rosegrowers (9)
- 12 Ireland (7,4)
- 13 Made of baked clay (7)
- 14 Assistant teacher (11)
- 20 Relief mapping (9)
- 22 Stows (5)
- 25 Easily afflicted (11)
- 28 From then on (11)
- 30 Private detective (7)
- 32 Rootlet (7)
- 33 Consecrate (5)
- 34 General soccer defender (7)
- 36 Encompass (7)
- 38 Join to (3,2)
- 40 Rush news item (4,5)
- 41 Mental disorder treaters (15)
- 42 Ordinary person (3,2,3,6)
- 46 Trachea instrument (12)
- 47 Understanding (11)
- 48 Very elusive (11)
- 50 Blemish (5)
- 52 Enactment (11)
- 54 Divination by lots (9)
- 55 Spiny pig (9)
- 57 Perceived (9)
- 59 Attributive substitute word (7)
- 60 Merciful (7)
- 61 Indecisive (7)
- 63 Italian "madam" (5)
- 64 Train drivers' union (1,1,1,1,1)

THE ARTS 2

Seasonal entertainments in London vary from the traditional pantomime to the decidedly offbeat

All the fun of the faerie

THEATRE

The Phantom Violin
AlmeidaCinderella
Dominion

Spectators arriving at the Almeida for Complicite's "melodramatic operetta" are announced at the door by a uniformed flunkey, who then obsequiously undresses the principal couple for their coach journey to join us at this great house masked ball where a seven-piece group (the Chameleon en-

Wendy Darling
ICA

Patrons will need to be well-versed in the exploits of the Darling family to supply a context for the mixture of Neverland memories Peta Lily presents in her one-woman show. Most of us are familiar with the story's outline: magical boy comes looking for shadow, teaches children to fly, wants Wendy to be his mother.

Other incidents may come to mind when Lily is seen adopting the angular arm

semble) are already diverting the guests with gems of the 1820s.

What follows is an excursion into neo-gothic fantasy such as the heroine of *Northanger Abbey* might have enjoyed on an opium trip. The couple squabble and separate, leaving the hero (Eric Mallett) to fall for a young masked singer whom he pursues into the adjoining park, undergoing a series of cliff-hanging adventures before an unmasked reunion where she turns out to be his wife.

I take these circumstances on trust from the printed synopsis; narrative clarity not being the strongest point in Jos Houben's production, which fails to establish the necessary comic premise that all these death-defying events take place in a thoroughly protected environment.

What the show does achieve is a brilliant pot-pourri of text, music, and gesture, incorporating all the self-intoxicating features of the "romantic agony". Gerard McBurney's score, drawn from a string of composers from Anber to Weber, is integrated with a similarly pillaged text.

Occasional unfakeably authentic lines break surrealistically through the party uproar. The hero, rowing over a moonlit lake, metamorphoses into the death-intoxicated Keats, thus impelling his quarry into the role of the Nightingale for the next round of the pursuit. Mallett, a figure of Shelley-like ardour, is partnered by Annabel Arden, whose waist-length tresses, huge horror-stricken eyes, and eloquent arm gestures evoke the worst things

that ever befell a maiden in a ruined abbey. The couple have musical oppsite numbers (Adrian Thompson and Linda Russell) who vie with them for the final applause.

But, if there is a star, it is the phantom violinist herself, Elisabeth Perry, who incites the delirious action with transcendently Mephistophelean variations on a thumping old German folk tune. In this, its first piece of music theatre, the company has decisively enlarged its range.

The Dominion panto may be full of television gags, but it certainly slams the story across. The work of Jim Davidson and Bryan Blackburn, it piles up the obstacles to Cinderella's night out,

even lumbering her with a trainee fairy godmother (Sherrie Hewson) who crash-lands on the Hardups with no confidence that her spell will work. When it does, you feel like cheering.

Other novelties reflect the fact that this is Davidson's show: as where a male Prince Charming in Ladybird medieval tights becomes a butt for his macho cockney variations on a thumping old German folk tune. In this, its first piece of music theatre, the company has decisively enlarged its range.

Irving Wardle

Hook's rich fruit cake, it is odd how few of these germinate in Lily's interpretation.

The sparsely-furnished stage looks hopeful: upturned chairs, a doll's house perched askew on a toy chest, and some indeterminate shapes on the periphery of the eerie light falling on these belongings of childhood. Returning to this nursery of the mind the grown-up Wendy brings out of the chest everything you need to furnish a desert island (shells, feathers, animal pelts) as well as some remarkable souvenirs, notably a blood-stained stump with hook attached.

Lily's simple image of flying - prone on the chest with arms and legs bent up - is

effective, and when she plays Peter Pan her alert posture has a wild boy rawness that captures the harshness behind the Barrie sweetness.

But though the programme tells us that this Wendy lets Tinker Bell die there is no way of telling from the performance that this happens. She does appear to strangle Captain Hook. Why? Nick Dwyer's closing music resembles the klaxons of Dr No's nuclear hide-out (another handsless villain) but whether Wendy makes her escape remains uncertain.

Jeremy Kingston



The Phantom Violin: director Jos Houben (rear) and Annabel Arden

To a formula

TELEVISION

"The way things look is the way things are", said Jane the American mistress (Karen Young) to her lover's daughter, Laura (Willow Grylls), as she put on her make-up in *Wild Things* (BBC2) - a film set in a Cornish hotel at Christmas, tartly flavoured with seasonal, bitter-sweet family tension. Jane looked rather like a cross between Marilyn Monroe and Jean Seberg, without the goddesses' divinity, but then she was no alluringly vulnerable victim.

Indeed, as victims go she was hard-nosed, hard-hearted and, with all her exercise workouts, hard almost everywhere else on her voyeuristically photographed body. Not content with looking, Laura's about-to-be divorced dad, Andrew (Stuart Wilson), frequently felt the way Jane was, until Laura cooked step-momma-to-be's Christmas goose by playing a video of her confessing that she did not love him. Sometimes the way things sound is the way things are.

Wild Things, written by David Fricke and directed by Rob Walker, was also not all it seemed. It entertainingly teased us with different cinematic formulas. First it threatened to be a horror film with a ghostly possessed child (*The Exorcist*, *The Omen*, etcetera), but mercifully the psychic talents of Laura's brother Will (Ben Robb) failed, like the advertised ghost of the hotel, to materialize. There was cinema technology as subject and form of a thriller (*Peeping Tom*, *Blow Out*), with the video camera enabling Jane to

suffer, courtesy of the hotel's video system, public humiliation through an unwitting broadcast.

The children were used both as exploited innocents, unable quite to understand the ways of adult sexuality (most brilliantly explored in *The Fallen Idol*), and as (anarchic) manipulators of adults (*St Trinians*, most children's films and reality). Jane followed a long line of American cinematically culture-clashing with Britain (most gleefully shown in *Local Hero*), thus enabling her to get the best features and to talk more about "juice" (citrus and other sorts) than the man from Del Monte.

The film ended with family values and schmaltz about to triumph, the wife (Tasie Silberg), as in *Fatal Attraction* and *Someone to Watch Over Me*, proving more beautiful as well as more durable than the mistress. Though in the end the family were left standing on the sands in a clichéd helicopter shot, there had been sufficient, good acting, writing and directing for us to forgive this.

The Renaissance Theatre Company's delightful production of *Twelfth Night* was given a belated television debut by Channel 4 which reproduced with added close-ups nearly all its theatrical quality, if not the breadth of the Riverside Theatre stage. Of course, tele tricks using the same actor could have made Viola (Frances Barber) really look the same as Sebastian (Christopher Hollis) but then, with *Twelfth Night*, things are not how they look but "what you will".

Andrew Hislop

Biters bit

Arts Council staff return to their desks at 105 Piccadilly in some trepidation on Tuesday, wondering which scrutineers they will find lurking in their offices. Richard Wilding, head of the Office of Arts and Libraries until his retirement yesterday (December 30), starts his new inquiry into the Arts Council's funding structure on the same day as the National Audit Office begins their examination of the council's operational effectiveness with its money. Both sets of investigators will be camping at the council's headquarters, Wilding until September and the NAO for at least six months, and insiders are considering asking them to wear different colour shirts.

To a head

The unhappy saga of the Museum of the Year Award trophy, a rare Henry Moore porcelain sculpture, is coming to a happy conclusion, thanks to what many consider Moore's successor as our premier sculptor, Dame Elisabeth Frink. She is to make a new



Headless: Frink (left), Moore

trophy for a paltry £2,000, a fraction of what her work can fetch on the market. The Moore piece, "Moonhead", belonged to the competition's sponsors, the *Illustrated London News*, who bought it directly from the artist for a knock-down £1,200 16 years

THE TIMES
ARTS DIARY

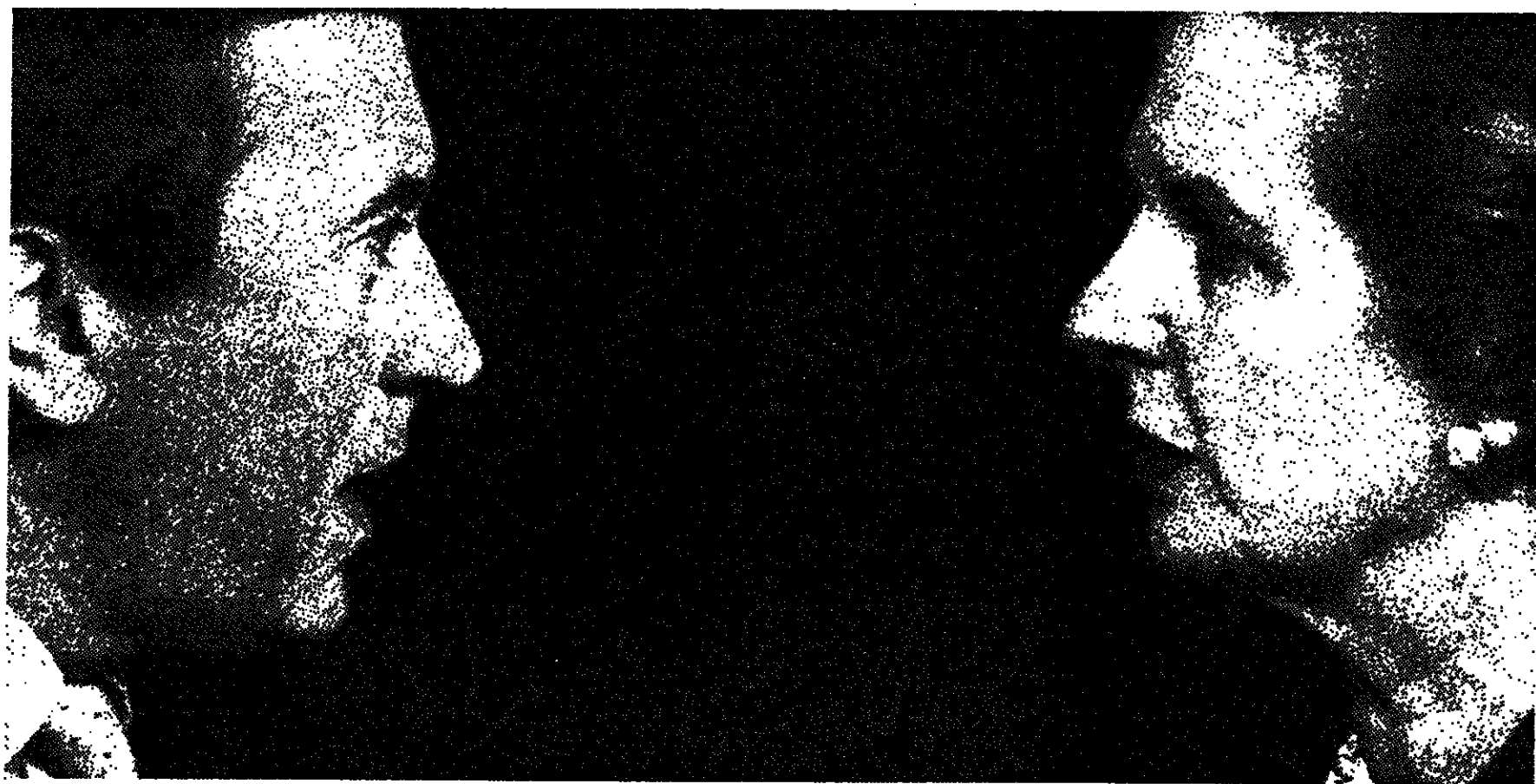
ago. That sponsorship ended this year, and the ILN's owner, Sea Containers, shocked the competition organizers, National Heritage, by offering to sell them the trophy - for £25,000. When National Heritage approached the National Art-Collections Fund for help, chairman Sir Peter Wakefield, it seems, was less than complimentary about Sea Containers' behaviour and declined to aid an appeal. Frink came to the rescue, Frink's new trophy, another miniature head, will be ready by May.

No similarity

The actor Gregory Floy, who recently bowed out of *Emmerdale Farm*, makes his writing and directing debut at Soho's Boulevard Theatre on January 17 with *Men in Suits*, a comedy thriller. The plot revolves around the arrest and interrogation of a national theatre company director and his wife, an international singer.

Floy and at least two of his cast are ex-National Theatre, but any resemblance to Sir Peter Hall, former director of the National Theatre, and his wife, international singer Maria Ewing, in the play is, of course, entirely coincidental - "Truly", insists Floy. "People are bound to draw conclusions, but it definitely isn't about them. I've simply turned to something I know about for the characters."

Simon Tait

PRIME
VIEWING

DAVID FROST INTERVIEWS MARGARET THATCHER 8-00 AM NEW YEAR'S DAY.

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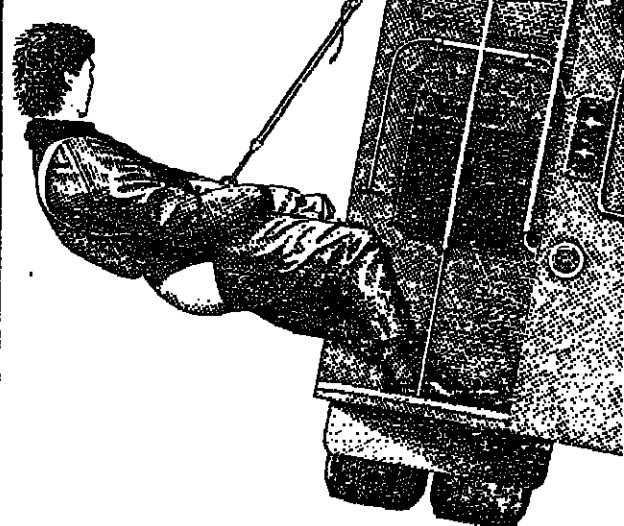
Muddled beat of a Memphis legend



Paul Griffiths

David Sinclair

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BOOKS

Heaven as we hope for it

Victoria Glendinning finds that every age adjusts its vision of eternal bliss, which reflects its hopes and aspirations

A history of Heaven — that is, a history of the ideas Christians have about what happens to us after we die — illuminates only what has happened on earth. As life in the world changes, so do our notions of the next one. There has always been disagreement about the terms and conditions of entry: do we go to Heaven straight away, or only after a probationary period, or not until the Day of Judgement? Who's in, and who's out? If we are to be reunited with our loved ones, will our dogs and cats be there, and what happens if seven men love the same woman? Most importantly, what do the saints actually do in Heaven throughout what these authors call, tautologically, "everlasting eternity"?

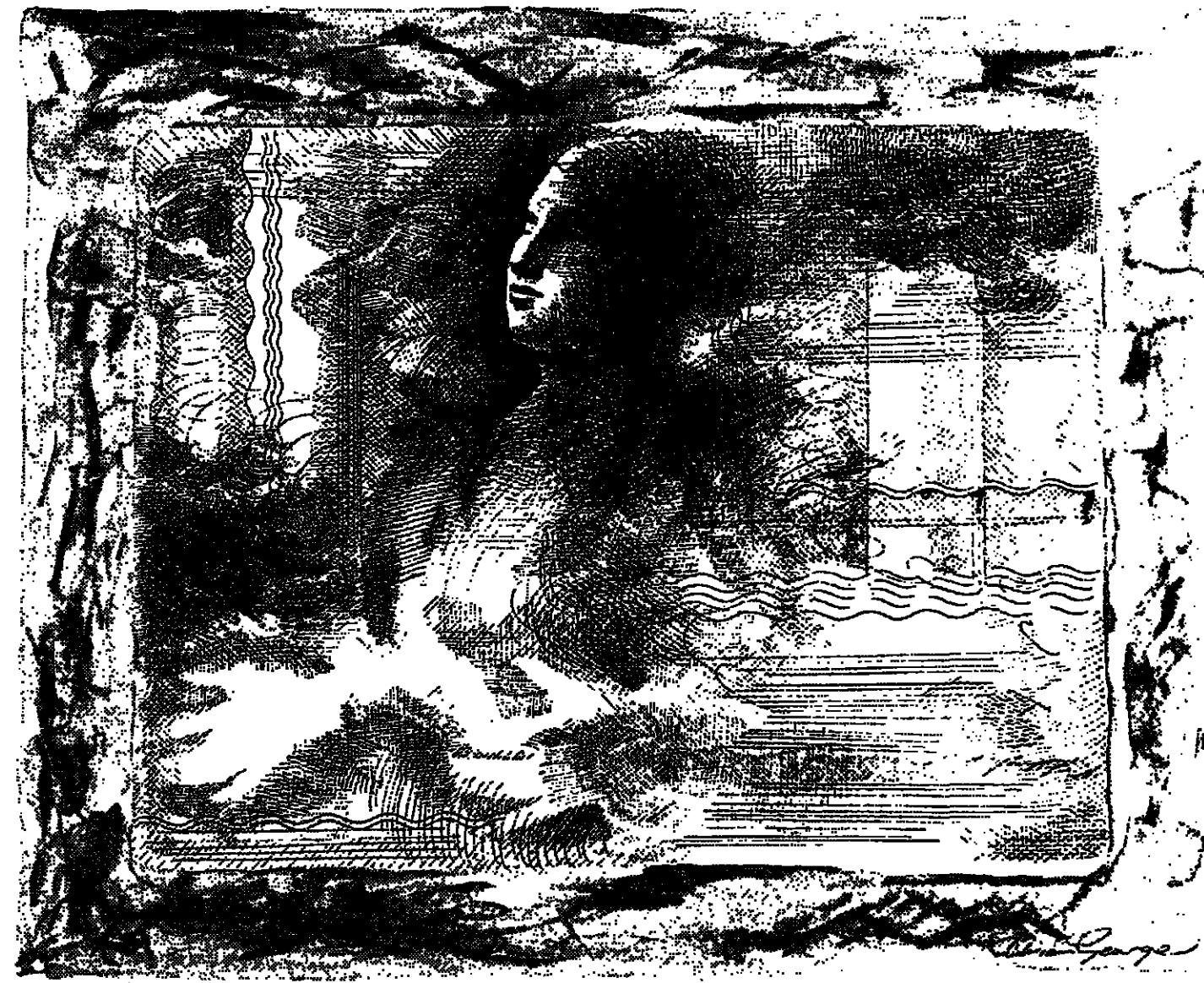
Christianity is not one big idea but an amalgam: the idea of bodily resurrection came from Iran, the idea of the immortal soul from Greece. The notion of Heaven often had political overtones. The promise of pie in the sky has been used to reconcile the masses to the rotten deal they were getting from the powers that be on earth. Israel's One God, the "state God" who ousted multiple deities and individual ancestor worship, was a strategy for national cohesion. The power of Satan, in the early Church, was equated with the Roman Empire, just as President Reagan saw the Soviet Union as the "evil empire"; and to the early Church Heaven was a massive temple, the setting for spectacular court ceremonial, with God as an imperial Middle Eastern potentate demanding flattery and entertainment.

You can imagine only out of what you already know, and every age creates its own heaven. The peasants and rural monastic communities of medieval Europe looked forward to a luxurious paradise garden. Those trapped in the darkness, filth, and disease of towns envisaged a glittering city in which they would wear glorious raiment and have lots to eat and drink. In Renaissance paintings

Heaven was often depicted as a carefully cultivated park, with dancing, perpetual good meals, brilliant light, healthy, beautified bodies, and perfect weather were recurrent themes during the long centuries when most people suffered from a lack of all these things. There are still believers who see Heaven as a celestial holiday resort or retirement village, but in those parts of Christendom where overflowing supermarkets and two weeks in Torremolinos are a commonplace, this model can't carry quite the same charge.

To research their subject, the authors had to grapple with a thousand years of social and cultural history as well as theology, and the result is not surprisingly a bit muddled and contradictory. But they identify two mainstream kinds of heaven. One is God-centred, in which the joy of being in the presence of the Almighty is sufficient bliss for all eternity. This heaven suits mystics, introverts, monks and nuns, some intellectuals and, one would guess, misanthropes. It was always obvious that not everyone was sufficiently developed spiritually to appreciate the beatific vision, but it was supposed that inadequate souls would be kept in training somewhere on the outer fringes of Heaven till they measured up.

The other sort of heaven is human-centred, and seen as a continuation of the best of life on earth. Luther, with his decent small-town values, could not imagine eternity without the work ethic and a striving for further achievement. (It is pleasant to learn that he told his children they would have "nice ponies" in Heaven.) Swedenborg, in the mid-18th century, had specific and detailed visions of the next world, with houses like at home only better, and all the familiar institutions and pleasures including "marriage delights". Jesus said that in Heaven there would be neither marriage nor giving in marriage. He was seemingly not



interested in either sexual love or family ties. But human beings are very interested in these things: they are what make life worth living, and Heaven, for the man in the street, would not be Heaven without them. The Church would have had few adherents without the promise of reunion with loved ones.

Holy virgins dealt with the love problem by seeing themselves as the brides of Christ, and expressing their ecstatic devotion in passionately sexual imagery. The high-minded romanticism of courtly love encouraged the age of the troubadours to hope for some form of love in Heaven. Sex in Heaven became respectable, as well as romantic love. Charles

Kingsley, author of *The Water Babies* and Queen Victoria's chaplain, saw Heaven as everlasting conjugal bliss: "Those thrilling writings are but dim shadows of a union that shall be perfect."

This privatized, double-bed sort of Heaven was less common in the 19th century than was a family-centred paradise. More than 50 books on what we should expect hereafter were published in America between 1830 and 1875. Heaven for these ingenious and imaginative believers was busy, domesticated, and materialistic; it contained not only homes, but schools, pets, suburbs, libraries with all the newest publications, and pianos. Orthodox theologians stood aside from all this,

without actively discouraging it. In our own time, with the exception of fundamentalists and spiritualists, Christian leaders are much more chary of definite prognostications.

The early Christians thought that the Day of Judgement was at hand, like next week; some Churches still believe this, and it makes texts such as the Book of Revelation easier to take literally. But intellectual theologians adopt a minimalist approach; the union with lost loved ones is a hope or a wish rather than a dogma, and the Bible prophecies are seen as symbolic.

Anxiety about where we go after death seems less intense. This is perhaps due to the diminished

significance of the idea of Hell, which was a terrifying reality for Christians of earlier generations.

One way out of the modern difficulty is to stress the building of heaven on earth through social reforms; and there is something called "process theology", which sees the individual as a "perishing event", eternally alive only in God's memory. I may have misunderstood this theory, but it sounds as if our stories were stored on some celestial video recorder that only He can operate. In the technological 1980s we are offered, as people always have been, a Heaven that is related to the world we have made. Maybe God will wipe the tape.

Roses in the parlour

CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

DEAR MILI
By Wilhelm Grimm
Translated by Ralph Manheim
Illustrated by Maurice Sendak
Sendak
Viking Kestrel, £9.95

The story is set in some ancient Thuringian forest, but it really begins in New York City in 1983. That was when an enterprising bookseller catalogued (at \$45,000) "a remarkable autograph letter containing an unpublished children's tale", which Wilhelm Grimm addressed to a young correspondent dwelling in some distant part of Germany. If Maurice Sendak, who had illustrated the two-volume edition of Grimm's tales, *The Juniper Tree*, could be persuaded to make a picture book out of this letter to *liebe Mili* then \$45,000 would be so much chaff, and everyone would live happily ever after.

And so it came about. For although the story was both maudlin and inconsequential, these very characteristics offered much scope to Sendak's interpretative questings. A small girl is sent into the forest by her widowed mother to escape the onset of war and destruction. Accompanied by her guardian angel she holes up at the cottage of St Joseph. After three days he sends her back to her mother with a red rosebud, and when she gets home, 30 years have passed and the old woman can barely welcome her daughter before both of them die and the rosebud blossoms.

There is so much twaddle in all this that it is difficult to see how it could have any life independent of the opulent setting that Sendak has designed for it. His full-page and double-page spread watercolours are heavy with Romantic *Stimmung*, boding out of the thin narrative. They are also loaded with references, providing parlour games for Sendak connoisseurs. (What are those seven dwarfs doing crossing a bridge near Auschwitz?)

"I feel this is mine," Sendak has said; "I'll share *Dear Mili* with Wilhelm, but I swear I've gotten into his skin." Which makes everything cosy for the pair of them, but leaves some of us wondering if we are the victims of a rather beautiful piece of chicanery.

● Goldilocks and the Three Bears, retold and illustrated by James Marshall (*Collins*, £5.95). James Marshall's wickedly colloquial version of the old story wending its way through the best of pantomime pictures.

● The Singing Ringing Tree, retold by Selena Hastings, illustrated by Louise Brierty (*Walker Books*, £7.95). More sleek illustration for a tale of love emerging from compassion. Cool colours and elongated figures neatly match what appears to be a retelling of a retelling — just what the Grimms went in for.

Tyranny of the centre

PAPERBACKS

Andrei Navrozov

CORRUPTIONS OF EMPIRE
By Alexander Cockburn
Verso, £7.95

tyranny of the centre is the political tyranny of a very few.

I am as far away from Cockburn politically as one free man can be from another. Were he writing his articles in Britain — where, embattled as it is, the Press is still competitive both commercially and intellectually, with the consequence that incorrigible dissidents like him can have a public existence — I would have hastened to denounce him as a Soviet apologist. But in America different standards apply, and one's revulsion at his stale "Beatrice

Webb meets E.H. Carr in Managua" opinion is tempered by one's respect for these articles as a source of fresh facts, unsoiled by the ministrations of a *New York Times* editor.

In "Press of Parrots", for instance, Cockburn suggests justifications for the murder of 269 passengers in a civilian plane by a Soviet missile. But at least he considers the possibility that the presence on board of Congressman McDonald, an extreme-Right politician, was the motive, something no mainstream journalist would ever dare to discuss. In "Battleship America", he pokes fun at Reaganism's armoured relationship to the modern world symbolized by the USS *New Jersey*. But the sad fact he extracts from all the mainstream prattle about the "deadly" 46-year-old battleship is that it is pathetically unsuited to modern warfare, something the Right and the Left can agree on. And so it goes, a new and controversial truth leaping at the reader from every piece in this collection. The trawling for facts, not the drawing of conclusions, is the skill that makes a good journalist, and, however preposterous or myopic his ultimate opinions, this pinko Brit is one of a handful of recent explorers to venture into the murky waters of American media and come out intellectually alive.

QUICK GUIDE



The Saga of Dharmapuri, by O.V. Vijayan (Penguin, £3.95) Slim modern allegory of Manichean conflict between gross tyrant of an Eastern state and a benevolent mystic with magical powers.

The Skin, by Curzio Malaparte, translated by David Moore (Picador Classics, £5.95) Factional stark portrait of occupied Naples in the Forties. Bosch phantasmagoric grotesquerie, attacked by anti-Fascists when first published.

story of the Mississippi, by sharp reporter and clever, acerbic writer.

Glimmer of Cold Brine, edited by Alistair Lawrie, Helen Matthews, & Douglas Ritchie (Aberdeen University, £8.95) Anthology of how the sea has shaped the lives of Scottish men and women over many centuries, from whaling and smuggling, to herring-gutting and North Sea oil.

Perestroika, by Mikhail Gorbachev (Fontana, £3.95) Collected speeches on the burning topic of the hour (and maybe the century) updated to include his speech at the June 1988 Party Conference and its resolutions.

The Embarrassment of Riches, by Simon Schama (Fontana, £12.95) Dutch culture in the golden age. Self-invention of a proud nation from a modest assortment of farming, fishing, and shipping communities, without a shared language, religion, or government.

The New British Painting, by Edward Lucie-Smith, Carolyn Cohen, & Judith Higgins (Phaidon, £9.95) Expert survey of our art of the Eighties, to illustrate and accompany the touring exhibition in the United States.

The Unprincipled Society, by David Marquand (Fontana, £3.95) Profound, scrupulous, cool, and original analysis of the causes of Britain's economic decline.

Ultra Goes to War, by Ronald Lawin (Griffin, £4.95) Eminent and sadly-missed military historian uses actual Ultra intercepts to show how the information derived from the cracked ciphers was used on the battlefield.

Glasnost from the left

Karan Thapar

REVOLUTION FROM ABOVE
Where is the Soviet Union Going?

By Tariq Ali
Century Hutchinson, £12.95

This is a very interesting book even if it is also on occasion unreadable. Its principal merit is that as a critique from the left of Gorbachev's changing Soviet Union its argument is fresh, provocative, and even revealing. Its drawback, however, is that its style can be ponderous and its language at times awkward.

Ali's thesis, as his opening sentence puts it, is that "the Soviet Union is once again pregnant with possibilities". His book is in part a history from the moment of conception, in part a study of the labour pains, and in part an

analysis of the birth that is yet to come. More importantly, he clearly likes the baby he thinks he can perceive.

As an analyst, Ali's strength lies in his insights into the historical ancestry of Gorbachev's thinking.

It is likely that the book will shock, antagonize, and even enrage the leadership in Moscow. After all, as an interpretation of what they are up to by a somewhat eclectic and, at times, even wayward Marxist, it could hardly fail to.

Of course, this is also why, despite the dreadful metaphors, the book is rewarding reading. Ali understands his Soviet Union, he knows its history and politics, he is sympathetic to its aims and struggles, and yet he is still sufficiently objective towards its failures and its pantheon of leaders to provide a sensitive account of what it is all about.

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EATING OUT

Jonathan Meades selects the restaurants that show there is more to great cooking than a command of elementary chemistry

The 1988 awards for good taste

Last year's newcomer gets the gold, the year-before-last's winning chef comes next, having changed his act and done as much as anyone to change the ground rules for serious restaurants.

Harvey's re-opened a month ago after suffering something rather grander than a redecoration: you can hardly believe yourself in the same building, so thoroughly has the shape of the space been amended. It must now be among the prettiest dining-rooms in the country: its prettiness is feminine rather than effeminate, and more or less self-consciously Parisian. The man responsible is the architect, David Collins, of whom I know nothing save that he also did Tante Claire. All his work here has in common with that at Tante Claire is the quality — the idiom could hardly be more different. One wonders, however, why Marco Pierre White should have risked possible duplications — the answer, presumably, is that Mr Collins is reckoned to be the architect who will get you a further sprinkling of Michelin stars. If he could do it for Tante Claire, so the thinking must go, he can do it for Harvey's. There is a marked sense of performing to the inspectors. As it happens, the stellar pursuit here has had happy consequences — White's cooking is better than ever. But prices have risen — though the place is still nowhere near so expensive as countless joints of very dubious quality. The thing is, someone has to pay the architect and builders — this is something that Michelin rather grandly overlooks. Still, White will almost certainly get what he has set his eye on; indeed, he strikes me as having as good a chance as anyone of being the first British-based chef/patron to achieve three stars without having to change his name to Roux.

As well as looking so good, Harvey's is now fairly well lit, which is a relief after the perpetual crepuscule of yore; and it is now well run by a young Frenchman called Jean-Christophe Slowik. His staff are notably more on the ball than the gang who were here when the place opened — which was, astonishingly, less than two years ago. Collins's design has rendered it comfortable, and has also furthered the space between the generously sized tables — he has done this not by some sleight of hand, but by removing four covers. The dining-room is now a fitting stage for White's cooking.

This chef is just 27 years old. He appears to be one of

those creatures who eschewed the stage at which he would have been characterized as "promising": he delivered full-blown achievement right from the word go. I've eaten at Harvey's four times this year and have never been less than amazed at White's inventiveness, mastery of craftsmanship and sheer *dan*. Like all brilliant performers — George Best, say, or De Niro — he makes the impossible seem obvious and unassailable. Everything is raised to a higher state, and makes you wonder why everybody can't be this good.

There is a very simple joy to be had in witnessing or hearing or reading or eating at this level. The tension between the strange and the familiar is massive; White shows that there is more to great cooking than a command of elementary chemistry — taste, trickery (rather than gimmickry), a concentration on the centre rather than the peripheries, a willingness to burn yourself, a determination to shut out the world when you're at work yet to crave that world's adulation. All these are important. But so too is that near-boorish self-confidence that ensures self-doubt is never expressed, always dissembled. White's endless promotion of White is, then, almost a condition of his talent and not something appended, not a mere sideline in egomania: the guy would die without an audience.

The various audiences that I have comprised this year have eaten oysters warmed with linguine, oyster juice, butter sauce, roast sweetbreads with potatoes crisped in goose fat, ravioli stuffed with barely cooked langoustine and sauced with a shellfish fumet; foie gras sandwiched between potato galettes; pigeon with a mushroom and spinach dumpling and a truffle sauce whose flavour gets stronger as the dish cools; an apple and calvados soufflé served in a hollowed-out apple; an iced, pyramidal praline walled by nougatine and diaphanous wafers. And then there is the rabbit with langoustine sauce, the pressed terrine of leek and langoustine. I could go on: these dishes are — perhaps surprisingly — described on the menu with the utmost concision. No definite or indefinite articles, none of that "smothered on a mattress of stuff" — they are simply inventories of (some of) the components. These are the most modest things about a really great restaurant which is, as I say, now deserving of that appellation, rather than something like "a good restaurant with a great chef". There is a difference.

Kensington Place is also a

great restaurant with a great chef, though its self-imposed remit is entirely different from that of Harvey's. It is, in a way, the felicitous wedding of the gastronomic and the "social". Rowley Leigh (Clifton), Simon Slater (Lancing) and Nick Smallwood (Milton Abbey) have set out to demonstrate that minor public schools produce other than estate agents, fraudulent stockbrokers and antique dealers.

Rowley Leigh (also Cantab) is one of Marco White's few peers: his cooking at Le Poulbot was, and remains, the best that any of the Roux Bros places have ever served this punter/pundit — even better than Le Gavroche, if only on grounds of consistency. Slater and Smallwood ran clubs such as Zanzibar and Morton's where cooking was — this is still the season of good will — not, perhaps, the main point.

Kensington Place seats nearly a hundred and serves them (briskly, amiably) with cooking of a standard that is, usually, only to be achieved in temples to gastronomy. They do this at prices which must appear crassly cheap to those temple merchants. Julian Wickham's neo-constructivist design helps, too — the icons of speed and utility prompt expectation in the eaters, celerity in the servers (probably). Leigh's game and fruit dishes, salt cod confections, foie gras and sweetcorn pancake, chicken and goat cheese mousses (which is being ripped off all over the place), are some of the things that suggest this is what the gastronomic future of London may look like. Even given the horrible rents that such businesses are lumbered with — £250,000 a year for starters for this sort of site — you have to rate their chances.

L'Arlequin is only improbably a victim of the cost of rent. Christian Delteil's fastidious

establishment is the one that most closely challenges Harvey's as a restaurant that does not want to change the rules or move the goalposts. I don't mean so far as the cooking goes, but the circumstances in which it is served. Delteil is subtle and clever but — along with many very good chefs — he is the tiniest bit tame. Further, he's also got the Egon Ronay "restaurant of the year" Lump O'Foil. He has enough to shove on the wall.

Ronay star this year and temperately described the guide as "jackluster". He is to be lauded for his cooking. In the past three years I've encountered aspirant Littles in Copenhagen, Liege and Nancy — and not one of them has quite got it. No one has quite realized, either, just how difficult it is to be a polymimic in a city that has no cooking of its own. Further, he has put himself up against it — deliberately — by shoving himself into the baldest of

arenas: he is to be judged by his cooking and not by his sides. And on current form his seemingly weird blend of Scandinavian, Japanese and north Italian kitchens melds immaculately.

North Italian is what the River Cafe does with greater brio than has ever been done before in London. Indeed, it does north Italian home cooking with a greater brio than any north Italian restaurant in Italy seems capable of. This is no doubt a class thing — the majority of Italian restaurants in London do not belong to that segment of the British middle class that annually colonizes Tuscany and — if they're really adventurous — chunks of Piedmont, Liguria and Lombardy.

Rose Grey and Ruth Rogers could have arrived at the sort of down-home cooking they do so well simply by reading Elizabeth David — but then so could two generations of macho pepper-grinders. I suppose the falling has forever

THE TIMES RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
Harvey's, 2 Belvedere Road, London SW17
(01-672 0114/5)
★★★★★★★★

BARGAIN RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
Kensington Place, 201 Kensington Church Street,
London W8 (01-727 3184)
★★★★★★★★

FRENCH RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
L'Arlequin, 122 Queenstown Road,
London SW8 (01-622 0555)
★★★★★★★★

CHEF-PROPRIETOR OF THE YEAR
Alastair Little, 49 Frith Street, London W1
(01-734 5183)
★★★★★★★★

ITALIAN RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
River Cafe, Thames Wharf, Rainville Road,
London W6 (01-385 3344)
★★★★★★★★

BRASSERIE OF THE YEAR
Bibendum, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3
(01-581 5817)
★★★★★★★★

HOTEL OF THE YEAR
Gidleigh Park, Chagford, Devon
(06473 3678/9)
★★★★★★★★

OUT-OF-TOWN RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
Pebbles, Pebble Lane, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
(0296 86622)
★★★★★★★★



lain in the inability of Italian chefs to read as well as to cook. Here, though, are two women who have followed Mrs David's footsteps, rather than her great book of 34 years ago, and have sought not to reproduce but to be guided by the recipes she received from this grand house, that cantina. The River Cafe's decor — if that's the word — has even less than that of Kensington Place to do with grand restaurants, and is equally prone to charges of inverse snobbery. It is not the sort of joint where you'll find the taxi-driving locals on their night out.

Nor is Bibendum — far too starchy, far too lacking in pretension. Conran's would-be brasserie is too expensive, too formal to be what it sets out to be. But it is saved by Simon Hopkinson's inimitable talent for being Simon Hopkinson — when he cooks his own, rather oddball, repertoire of dishes (mostly at lunchtime), he is the glutton's mate.

When he does the things that are meant to be "brasserie classics" you a) get annoyed at the way he's pepped them up, b) wonder if they were such a good idea in the first place, c) burrow deep into the strictly non-brasserie wines, d) spend too much money and thus fatten the coffers of Le Chevalier Thierry which, of all coffers, surely, could go on a

diet. Still, it is a pretty marvellous place.

The year's best hotel chef is Shaun Hill at Gidleigh Park in Devon. Mr Hill's employer and oenophile co-partner strikes me as being a pretty impossible man to work with, and Mr Hill looks as though he might be a bit on the difficult side. So, between them, they've come up with a restaurant that is genuinely odd in that it has nothing in common with the restaurants of country-house hotels.

It's sort of formal, sure, in the service, but the guy's cooking has nothing to do with the usual in-flight Higher Colleague Class fancy nothingness that such places habitually offer. Mr Hill has much more in common with Messrs Leigh and Little than he does with the chef at the International Continental-Worldwide in Munich or Marseille, Oslo or Oviedo: he is untouched by Pan-Europeanism.

Finally, Mr Jeremy Blake O'Connor offers himself in only one category. His place, Pebbles in Aylesbury, was a notch above everything outside London with the exception of Gidleigh Park. Neither town nor site is the greatest place, and nor, indeed, is the dining-room — but this guy is a formidable talent who is strong on omelette, mushrooms, lentils, and very sweet sweets.

GARDENING

Growing Dutch in the nurseries

I have never known a more industrious or committed group of individuals than the fiercely independent Dutch nurserymen. I have met men who cannot look at a plant without itching to propagate it — and sell it. For some of them this is a way of life which goes back centuries. Gerrit Buis, whom I visited recently, can trace his ancestry back to a Dirk Buis, born in 1680, a grower in Uiterweg in the heart of the famous Aalsmeer district of Holland.

Gerrit Buis has been growing plants ever since he can remember; his family specialized in cut lilacs before the war. The well-drained Aalsmeer soil is perfectly suited to these plants, and the fact that they could control the water levels gave the Dutch the competitive edge over other European growers. Buis remembers how in winter "we

Gerrit Buis came to England from Holland on a trial visit — 41 years ago

had to pump like the blazes", in the summer "we raised the levels".

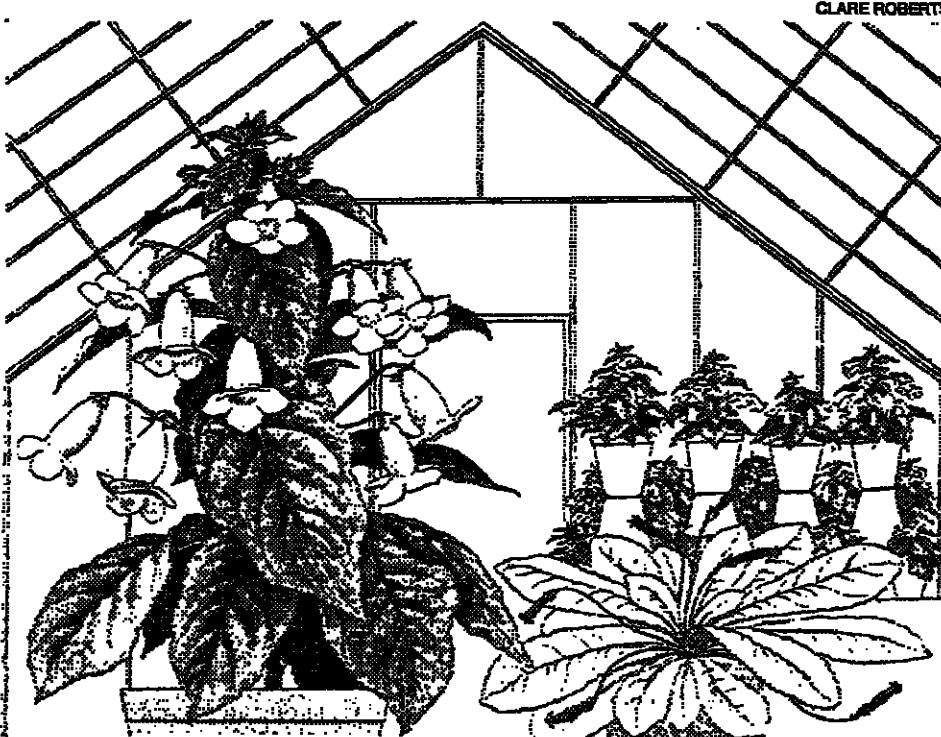
In order to get blooms for Christmas, "we teased the lilac trees — we pruned the roots which shocked them into making flowerbuds". Each was pruned individually with a sharp spade, still the best way for domestic gardeners to bring recalcitrant lilacs to bloom, although for commercial production hormone sprays are now used. In early winter, the whole shrub was cut out of the peaty soil in a large block and taken into the greenhouses. Four weeks be-

fore Christmas the glasshouses were given extra heat and the buds coaxed into opening, ready to be cut and bunched for sale at auction. The trees went back into the fields in April and with extra pruning were ready to produce flowers again two winters later.

Life was harsh in Aalsmeer during, and after, the war, so when Buis received an offer to come to England, he was willing to try. At the age of 30, he was an experienced grower in his family's firm and a good choice for David Fenwick, a Suffolk grower who was expanding the English bulb business from his nursery at Ipswich. Fenwick was one of the first nurserymen to visit Holland after the war; he negotiated for bulbs and plants from the Buis family — but on condition that they "sent a chap over to grow them".

In the spring of 1947, Buis arrived in England. "I was to try it for three months and I have stayed for 41 years," he says. In the early years he grew freesias as cut flowers, and pot hyacinths. He also grew a range of plants, including marigold and antirrhinum, to provide selected strains of seed. The Fenwick business grew and, after supervising a nursery at Marks Tey in Essex, Buis was put in charge of a new enterprise at Capel St Mary, where he now lives — a stone's throw from the nursery.

"I had everything just my own way," he recalls with satisfaction. "That was quite nice." With characteristic resourcefulness, he made the greenhouses productive before the building was completed.



Greenhouse hopes: Gerrit Buis has raised 50 healthy plants from his original *Cesneria* hybrid

Chitting freesia seeds in his bedroom (luckily his wife is also from a family of growers, so she understands such things), he planted them in beds in the greenhouses when the groundwork was done. By the time they needed shelter from the weather, it was time to put the glass in the houses, a hazardous operation when tender plants have to be avoided. That November there were cut freesias to send to market.

Since then he has expanded the nursery business, growing for seed and plant wholesale contracts, and to supply the garden centre which has sprung up adjacent to the nursery. Now in his seventies, he has in theory retired, but he still lives next door to the nursery, and spends much of his time propagating and selecting promising plants.

After much searching he discovered a few plants of the

trailing begonia variety *Lorraine*, still being grown by an old nurseryman in Holland, and he is building up stocks of this elegant old-fashioned plant. He is also skilled in growing the pretty, trailing *Balkan pelargoniums*, and has found and propagated a new kind ("I call it *Goldlocks*"), which has a variegated leaf.

One of his most interesting protégés is a *Cesneria* hybrid which he found in Holland, a shapely pot plant with long red bells, opened at the base. "You can grow it from leaves, cutting and rhizomes," he says. In the nursery there are 50 or so healthy young *Cesnerias* which he has raised from his one specimen. He is rather proud of never having had a holiday, though he sees the rest of his family when he is in Holland on business. "When you love your work as much as I do you don't need holidays — and you never get bored with plants."

WEEKEND TIPS

- Prune grape vines (under glass) as a matter of urgency if not already done.
- Cut out the dead wood from trees and shrubs during milder weather.
- Put first early seed potatoes in shallow trays in a light, cool place which is free from frost for shoots to develop (chitting).
- Keep off lawns that are very wet or frost covered, and don't mow unless there is significant, steady growth.
- Re-pot house and greenhouse plants whose root systems have become constricted and pot-bound.
- Begin picking Brussels sprouts — from the bottom upwards. They will store for about three weeks in a cool place.

Francesca Greenoak

Plant first aid

Millions of us will have received pot plants as Christmas gifts this year, but sadly only a few of them will live to see in another new year. Even as I write, susceptible plants such as cinerarias, overheated, then over-watered, will have declined past recall. Others, notably cyclamens and azaleas, have a struggle against the odds.

The problem lies in a fatal conjunction of circumstances: pot plants raised to peak flowering in ideal conditions are at their most vulnerable to change; we are too busy and preoccupied with holiday festivities to nurse them through their trauma. In my experience, most pot plants prefer to be a little chilly rather than too hot, and a greenhouse (kept at 43°F/6°C) or cool room would be better for most of them than a centrally heated area. They can be acclimatized to the home gradually, when there is time to watch how the plants respond, to mist spray, and to provide a saucer of wet pebbles or gravel for them to stand on.

- **Cyclamens:** Restricted temperature band, suffering above 55-60°F/13-15°C and below 41°F/5°C. Leaves turn yellow, flower stems shrivel, and the corn rots when you overwater, trying to compensate. Action: Remove plant to correct temperature in good light (not direct sun), water from below, give a wet gravel saucer.
- **Christmas Cactuses:** Swelling flowerbuds drop off — the plant's reaction to a changing climate of different aspect. Action: Keep the plant in a good light (not direct sun), coolish 55-60°F/13-15°C, and keep compost moist. It will adapt to its new home and flower next year.
- **Azaleas:** Dislike hot rooms,

drop buds and leaves. I know people who keep azaleas flowering year after year. Action: Cool their ambient temperature to 50-60°F/10-15°C. To water, dunk the whole plant in a sink of tepid water holding it down until bubbles stop coming from the compost. Drain and place in a damp gravel saucer in a well-lit position.

- **Poinsettias:** Drop leaves if too dark and too shaded. Action: Give light (no draughts), keep compost moist on a pebble saucer. There is a complicated procedure for achieving coloured bracts (its flowers) next year but they will sometimes manage to produce them unaided — they remain good foliage plants, in any case.
- **Chrysanthemums:** Fairly tolerant of heat, but flowers last much longer in cool conditions. Action: Snip off dead blooms, keep the compost moist, and wash off any aphids as soon as they appear.
- **Kalanchoe:** The red-flowered *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* is the popular one. Tolerates living room temperatures, but goes flabby and sick in the dark. Action: Remove to bright light, water occasionally — may flower again (50°F/10°C minimum).

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THE TIMES COOK

Roll up a pig in a blanket

Pork wrapped in cabbage leaves is a combination which is guaranteed to warm up the coldest of days. Frances Bissell passes on the recipe from her American mother-in-law

DIANA LEADBETTER



After a wintry day out, there is nothing more cheering than coming into a warm kitchen full of the enticing smells of a slow-cooked stew. When I go into my mother-in-law's kitchen in Pittsburgh, I recognize immediately what is cooking: "pigs in blankets", or *gohbitsy* to give them their Russian name. It is her version of the fatted calf.

We always request them several weeks in advance, and she makes a huge quantity, some for us, some for the neighbours, and some to freeze for later in our stay. But they never taste better than they do that first night: stuffed cabbage leaves served with mashed potatoes, brown bread, pickles and a dollop of cottage cheese or soured cream, the whole washed down with Iron City or Rolling Rock beer — both of which are famous in the area.

It is an inexpensive dish, robust and with an earthy direct appeal, a *marvellous antidote* to Christmas food and neatly disguised leftovers. It would be perfect to serve for an all-day party on New Year's Day. The stuffing can be mixed today, the cabbage leaves blanched or, indeed, the whole dish can be cooked today, cooled quickly and refrigerated and then reheated very thoroughly tomorrow.

The recipe can be varied with more spices and herbs added, a few dried mushrooms soaked and chopped up with meat, or one meat used instead of three. A good coarse sausage meat could replace one of the meats. Mashed potatoes, jacket potatoes or a *gratin* of root vegetables would be excellent with the cabbage rolls, as would a large bowl of white beans, liberally anointed with olive oil, garlic and black pepper. Salads are the right thing to serve before or after this substantial food, not soups or terrines.

The pudding stays in the same geographical mode as the *gohbitsy*, fresh cranberries from America made into that delicate Russian sweet, "kissel", a clear, soft fruit jelly that is so wobbly it is little more than a thick syrup. I love the clean flavour of cranberries and their rich crimson colour. They are good in sorbets and ice-creams, for not even freezing can extinguish their flavour — if anything, the cold enhances it.

For a spectacular finale to this New Year's Eve party, I have suggested an idea from quite a different part of the world, cold damp Galicia in northern Spain. This version of flaming coffee should be handled with care.

Radichio and curly endive look particularly good in this dish. Walnut oil and sherry vinegar would make a well-flavoured salad dressing. Prepare the salad just before required. It should not take many minutes.

Warm quail eggs and leek salad

Serves 4

3 leeks

1 dozen quail eggs

1 tsp double cream,

yoghurt or "fromage frais"

Salad greens

Dressing

1oz/30g chopped walnuts

Quail eggs are difficult to cook just right so that the white is set and the yolks not quite. This way works for me. Put the eggs in a pan of cold water, bring to the boil and simmer while you count to 30. Then remove to the sink, and hold the pan under running cold water. Stop when the water in the pan is just warm. The reason for this is that you are serving a warm salad and need to maintain the eggs at a certain temperature.

Wash and shred the leeks lengthwise into 3in/7.5cm strips. Drop into boiling water and simmer for a couple of minutes until tender. Drain and return to the pan with cream or yoghurt and stir well in and keep them warm. Arrange the salad leaves on individual serving plates. Shell the eggs and return them to the warm water.

Arrange a nest of warm leeks on each plate. Gently dry the quail eggs, and place three in each nest. Pour dressing over the top and scatter on the walnuts.

A non-vegetarian version of this would be to serve, in addition, gently fried quail breasts sliced on to the salad.

For a completely different salad,

chilled, bracing and refreshing, try this recipe from Jeremy Round, an expert in Turkish cookery. It is a recipe from Kars near the Russian border and works well with the two Russian-inspired dishes which follow. It provides exactly the flavour, texture and temperature contrast that you need with the slow-cooked, densely flavoured stuffed cabbage leaves.

Kars salad

Serves 6-8

10oz/280g mozzarella (large white)

radish, peeled and grated

10oz/280g carrot, peeled and

grated

2 cloves garlic, peeled and

minced

1-2 tsp salt

Juice of 1-2 large lemons

8oz/230ml ice-cold water

Mix everything together. Adjust quantities of salt and lemon juice to taste. The consistency should be very wet, almost soupy. Serve chilled in bowls with warm white pitta bread.

Pigs in blankets

Serves 4-6

1 head of cabbage

1lb/230g minced pork

1lb/230g minced veal

1lb/230g minced beef

2oz/60g soft white

breadcrumbs

1 tsp dill seeds

2 onions
2 cloves garlic
1/2pt/280ml dry cider
14oz/400g tin of tomatoes
1 tsp juniper berries
Seasoning
Chopped chives
Sour cream or smetana

Carefully separate the cabbage leaves, discarding any bruised or rotten ones. Chop the cabbage heart and reserve. Trim away the woody base of each leaf and cut out the central stem if it is tough.

Mix together the three meats, breadcrumbs and dill seeds. Chop the onions and one clove of garlic, and add these as well as a little seasoning. Drop the cabbage leaves, a few at a time, into a large pan of boiling salted water to soften them. Then remove, rinse and drain.

Take a handful of stuffing and place it in the centre of a cabbage leaf, overlapping it in the centre if you have removed the rib. Roll up, tucking the ends in as you roll. Continue until you have used up all the cabbage leaves and the stuffing.

Lightly grease a deepish ovenproof dish and lay the chopped cabbage over the base. Arrange the stuffed cabbage rolls on top with the loose ends underneath. Boil up the cider with the chopped tomatoes, juniper berries and the remaining clove of garlic. Reduce a little and pour over the cabbage.

Cover and cook in a low oven for a long time, or at gas mark 3, 170°C/325°F, for 2½ to 3 hours. Top up with extra cider if necessary. Serve with sour cream and chopped chives.

Cranberry kissel

Serves 4

1lb/455g cranberries

1pt/280ml water

4oz/110g sugar or to taste

2 tsp potato starch

or cornflour

Wash the berries and simmer until soft in a pint of water. Sieve the pulp and then stir the sugar into the brightly coloured juice. Heat until melted.

Mix the potato starch with two tablespoons of cold water. Stir into the syrup and, continuing to stir, bring it to the boil when you will see the mixture thicken. Boil for no more than two minutes to cook the starch. Any longer and the kissel will begin to thin. Pour into a glass bowl. Cool and chill.

Serve with thin cream or thick cream, yoghurt, cream cheese or just by itself.

This recipe also works very well with the long, slender, pink forced rhubarb just now reaching the shops. To keep a good colour, do not peel the rhubarb before cooking it.

Queimada de la casa

Flaming coffee

Serves 8

2-3 tsp sugar

7fl oz/200ml aquardiente,

brandy or rum

1 pot fresh coffee for 8

Put the sugar into a warmed flame-proof bowl or pan that is large enough to hold all the ingredients. Set it on a mat on the table, pour on the spirit, carefully light it and let it burn. Stir it from time to time with a long-handled spoon.

It will burn for a good five minutes, melting the sugar and evaporating the alcohol. As the flames die down, pour on the coffee. Stir thoroughly and ladle into small coffee cups. Serve immediately.

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DRINK

Diluting the damage

Every year I remind myself that the only way to avoid a splitting headache, a raging thirst and a trembling hand on New Year's Day is to drink less, drink better, and dilute it all with a lot of water.

I gave up drinking bad wine long ago, but the memory of those morning-after still lingers. Let your nose and taste buds do the checking: any wine that smells or tastes the slightest bit strange, musty or medicinal should be left alone.

There are several ways to avoid hangovers altogether. The first is to take your own trouble-free bottles to any New Year's Eve party; the second is to remember that helpful homily: for every glass of wine, a glass of water. Diluting the damage really does work, and it stops you from drinking an extra glass of wine when all you want is to quench your thirst.

Party-throws-ers who do not have masses of bottled mineral water available, of both the still and sparkling variety, should be shunned. And if you are giving a party to-night, over-estimate your guests' water consumption, otherwise you will be faced with an embarrassing queue for the kitchen tap.

Refreshing though it may be, Perrier costs from 53p a litre. Sparkling water addicts should try Strathmore from Scotland — a water with flavour (in this case a mild, smoky quality) costing 41p for a 1½-litre plastic bottle from Majestic Wine Warehouses.

Perhaps the best advice, if you have over-indulged, is to drink at least a pint, two if you can manage it, of water before going to sleep. The water should run its usual course, and when you wake in the middle of the night, drink another pint or two. In the morning, try aspirin, Alka Seltzer and vitamin B.

Again, if you are throwing a New Year's Eve party, make certain there are ample quantities of de-alcoholized wines for those who want to celebrate without pushing up their level.

There are now low alcohol sparkling wines and the best I have tasted so far is the flowery, peachy-palated Hans Barth Sparkling Riesling (£3.95, Barnes Wine Shop, 51 Barnes High Street, London SW13, open today 9.30am-8.30pm). If this seems expensive for a non-alcoholic product, try Pénitance de Listel whose sweet grapey taste is pleasant (Sainsbury's, £1.79; Augustus Barnett, £1.99).

Rather more satisfying are the still de-alcoholized wines

and, in addition to the original California Paul Masson Light (with its slightly sparkling herbaceous palate, Sainsbury's £1.95; Peter Dominie £1.99), try the new Australian de-alcoholized Riesling called Chiron (Victoria Wine Company, £1.89), whose soft, barley sugar-style 1988 vintage is pleasant enough. Escobes Light is another still wine to remember; it is light and grapey in style (£1.69 from Tesco).

On to more alcoholic matters. Those of you who attended Liberty's shopping evenings for *Times* readers might like to know what wine you drank. I chose it from a shortlist presented to me by Liberty's; the wine needed to come from either a big bottle or a wine box, for ease of serving. It was an Australian 1988 McWilliams Colombar Chardonnay, a two-litre wine box on sale at Peter Dominie for £7.15. This is the first wine box I have felt enthusiastic about for a long time and its fresh scent and peachy palate should make it an appealing party wine.

Sparkling wine is still the most popular party choice, and even if you cannot afford more than the humble sounding but delicious tasting G.F. Cavalier Brut, a French *cuvée* close wine (Majestic £2.75, Oddbins £2.79), I expect your guests will be quite happy to drink this all night rather than switching to still wine.

Oddbins' monopoly continues on all that is excellent value from Australia. The latest coup by this imaginative firm is a true bin-end, the '84 Wolf Blass Quehtaler Water-vale Semillon for a reasonable £3.49 a bottle. Oddbins does not have much of this special parcel available, so snap it up. Given its majestic style and depth of flavour, a £5-plus price tag would not be excessive.

For those to whom mid-winter party wines are always red, Oddbins also has the answer with its splendid own-label '86 Oddbins Red at just £2.49. This handsome spicy wine, with its purple colour and peppery style, is made from a blend of Syrah, Mourvèdre, Carignan and Grenache grapes.

One of the things I like most about this Vin de Pays des Côtes Catalanes, which is actually declassified Côtes du Roussillon Villages (but miles better than many a dull south west red I have come across) is its stylish label. No one I know would refuse a glass of this on New Year's Eve.

Jane MacQuitty

FOOD

Palaeolithic sausage

At last, and just in time for Hogmanay and Burns Night, the haggis has been given a clean bill of health. In previous years the great chieftain o' the puddin' race has been quarantined by the Japanese, condemned as fertilizer in Brazil, and arrested on suspicion of unfitness for human consumption by customs authorities the world over.

But now four doctors from the cardiology department at the University Hospital of Wales have submitted a 15-page report to the *British Medical Journal* concluding that haggis is healthy. The report is entitled *The Heart, Alcohol, Gut and Grain Ingestion Study (HAGGIS for short)*, and may never be printed, but I thought you should know.

I like haggis. So do most people who dare to try it. It is the archetypal palaeolithic sausage and not, in reality, peculiarly Scottish. It was a common dish all over Europe for centuries. Aristophanes, in *The Clouds*, describes one bursting: "Bounce goes the bag and covers me all over with its rich contents of such varied sorts."

It has been suggested that the haggis was introduced to Scotland by the Romans, who made it by filling a pig's boiled stomach with fry and brains, raw eggs and pulped pineapples, seasoned with a sauce made of petrified fish intestines. This seems improbable. Scottish haggis is made with the innards of sheep, not pigs, and pineapples and roting fish do not come into it.

They used to say that a haggis was all of a sheep except the mutton. In fact it is



Piping in a Scots tradition properly the heart, lungs and liver of the sheep hashed or finely minced with suet, onions, oatmeal, salt and pepper, and tied into either the large stomach bag or the smaller "king's hood" of the sheep.

On Burns Night (January 25) in many a Scots household and dining hall, a kilted bagpiper will pipe in what was once a crofter's modest joy to be the centrepiece of the banquet. It will be ceremonially slit open with the host's skean-dhu, revealing the rich oatmeal and offal pudding within. Similar ceremonies will be performed by expatriate Scots and sympathizers in almost every country in the world.

To do it well, buy your haggis from a reputable source. It must, for ghoulish authenticity, be packed in the natural, edible stomach casing. Do not condescend anything packed in plastic or frozen.

Simmer it in all-but-boiling water long enough to be thoroughly heated through and, if you do not fancy the "zoosie face" of a bare sheep's stomach, wrap it in a stiffly starched napkin. When you slit it open with your skean-dhu (or sharp kitchen knife), make a cross in the skin and fold the corners back so you have an aperture big enough for a large serving spoon (preheated in boiling water) to scoop out the contents.

Eat it with hashed neeps (mashed swedes), champit tatties (mashed potatoes) and liberal helpings of whisky. Neat whisky is usually recommended and traditionalists insist that it should be drunk from a quail, a double-handled wooden drinking bowl, but a glass will do.

It does not have to be whisky, although that is the Scots *vis à vis*, and spirits are similarly traditional with caviare (vodka) and pickled herrings (aquavit), strongly flavoured specialties from areas which, like Scotland, produce no wines. Robust red wines from the Rhône, the Iberian peninsula or Italy, which accompany the spicy sausages of those areas, will stand up to haggis too.

This year Heath of Scotland, usually a specialist in fine smoked foods, is offering 2lb haggies that are made in Lockerbie and Dumfries for £5.75 including packing and postage. A contribution will be made to the Lockerbie disaster appeal for each haggis sold. The address is: Waterside House, by Lockerbie, Dumfrieshire DG11 1AT.

Robin Young



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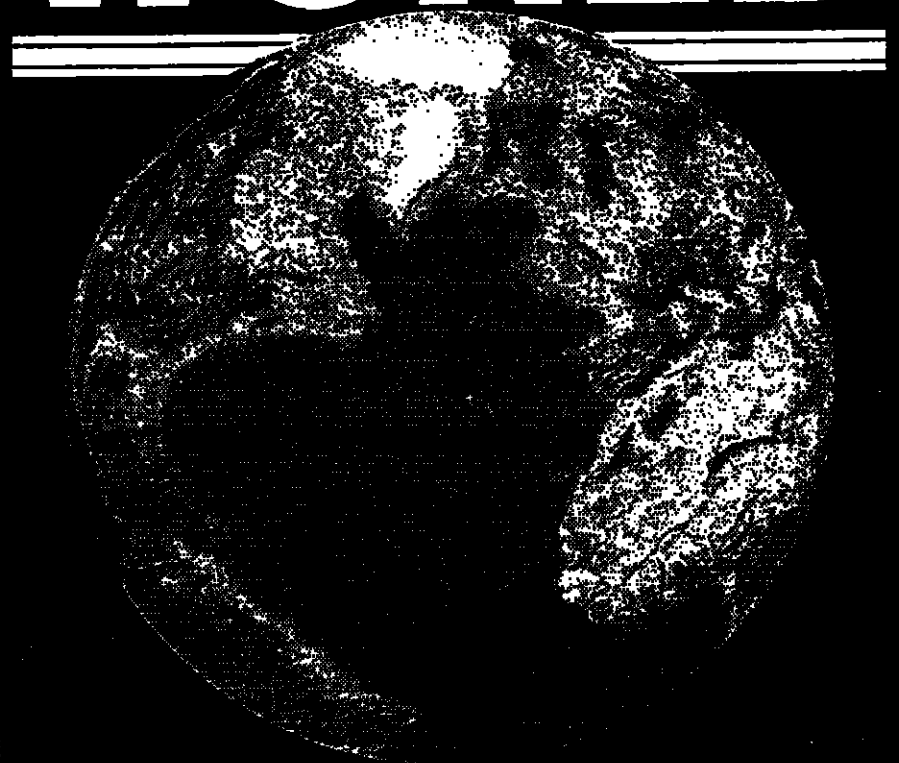
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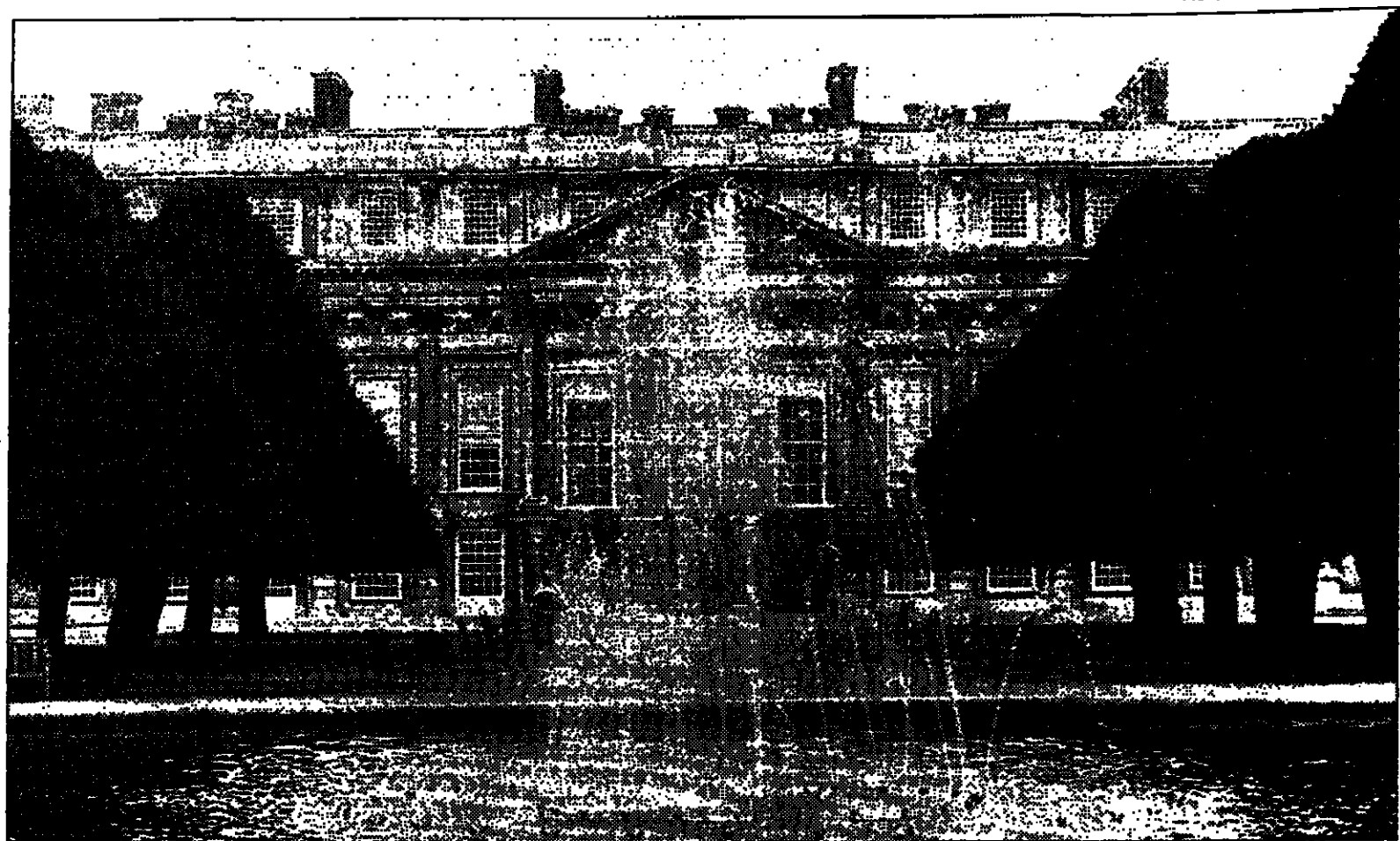


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OUT & ABOUT

PICTURES BY PETER TREVYNOR



Awesome quality in overwhelming quantity: Hampton Court combines a huge and magnificent Tudor palace with one of the grandest masterpieces of Wren

Tudor treasure heap

It is hard now to believe that Hampton Court Palace ever had any other purpose than the servicing of vast numbers of tourists. Like Windsor Castle and the Tower of London, it is so entirely identified with its role as one of the Great Sites of England that it is no longer really visible. Its essence has slipped away somehow, retreating before the year-in-year-out invasion of the visiting hordes. As you make your way along the Haunted Gallery, you no longer have the slightest expectation of a glimpse of Catherine Howard. If any ghosts walk, they are surely the unquiet spirits of tourists who suffered heart attacks in the crush.

Hampton Court is on every foreign visitor's itinerary, a compulsory king-size dollop of Old England and royal splendour. Dutifully they troop around in their thousands, but what on earth do they make of the place? The Japanese seem to suffer an ontological crisis, as they always do when confronted with something they aren't allowed to photograph (such as the Hampton Court interiors). The Germans stick to their solid and methodical act, while the French are definitively superior — "C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas Versailles". Only the Americans are visibly bowled over, but then bowling over Americans was never a major challenge.

Hampton Court has awesome quality — of course it has: it combines a huge and magnificent Tudor palace with one of the grandest masterpieces of Wren. But it also has overwhelming quantity — a staggering, impossible amount of, well, everything. For the present, and for the next couple of years, there is slightly less to see: parts of the

Hampton Court is one vast, confusing maze in itself. Nigel Andrew suggests a plan of action

When palace are closed while the terrible damage from the 1986 fire is undone. However, that still leaves an awful lot, and the best time of year to sample it is certainly winter, when the crowds are much thinner, at least on weekdays, and consist largely of schoolchildren intent on hunting the palace ghosts.

The sheer scale of Hampton Court means that maintenance is conducted on a Forth Rail Bridge principle, and some corners give an impression of builders' yards or site offices. Fountain Court is, for the best of reasons, a mass of green hoardings, and scaffolding and polythene tarpaulins climb over the South wing of Wren's palace.

Less excusably, a hideous length of portable building greets the visitor, after hand baggage has been carefully checked by uniformed attendants. This is the ticket office ("Bard Cards accepted").

where you are issued with a flimsy little till-slip which you then have to show to another uniformed attendant. It is hardly the most magical introduction to "five hundred years of English history"; but it is doubtless efficient at, as they say, maximizing throughput.

Touring Hampton Court, you know you are treading the well-worn routes trod smooth by generation after generation of visitors. Signs are everywhere, routing you to different parts of the buildings and grounds, and making sure you do not stray into the parts you are not meant to see. I liked "Please do not walk on the benches" in the old wine cellars — that should be worth 100 points in the I-Spy Book of Historic House Noises. More bizarre was "HOSE REEL" in bold capitals, immediately over a painting of "The Marriage of the Virgin" in the Haunted Gallery.

Hampton Court remains, at one level, a mysterious place, full of unexpected doorways, stairs leading nowhere, echoing cloisters and hidden courtyards. The palace is a maze in itself, and the enormous numbers of "No Entry" signs reinforce the sense that you are perhaps barely scratching the surface, even if you tread every yard of the permitted routes.

But to do that, in the course of one visit, is to risk seriously overloading your appreciation circuits. Much better to single out a particular course or two from the banquet set before you.

One very satisfactory way to handle Hampton Court, I find, is as a magnificent art gallery. Apart from the beauties to be seen in the state rooms — including a pair of very nearly top-notch Titoretos — there are two art

galleries proper. In the Renaissance Gallery hang what a Japanese visitor pitifully described as "many pictures" taken from the Royal Collection, and including four or five which would be worth the visit even if you didn't get Hampton Court thrown in. However, the hanging leaves something to be desired: it is impossible to look at Parmigianino's wonderful "Minerva" or Holbein's "Noli Me Tangere" without seeing more of your own reflection than the picture.

The Mantegna Gallery is a converted orangery which houses, in splendid isolation and optimal conditions, the nine huge canvases of Mantegna's "Triumph of Julius Caesar". Though much restored, it is still a breathtaking piece of work.

At present (and until September 1989) Hampton Court also houses an interesting exhibition on Wren's creation of the palace for William and Mary.

A speaking likeness of Sir Christopher has been created, unconvincingly, by projecting film of a bewigged actor's face on to a featureless dummy head. The schoolchildren greet this apparition with delight — I suppose it is the nearest thing to a ghost they are likely to see.

Outside, the famous maze is now open all year round, and looks more opaque than when I last attempted it. The Great Vine is in leafless majesty, and the gardens... But, as I said, there is far, far too much for one visit.

Hampton Court, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 8AU (01-977 8441). State apartments open daily 9.30am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm (last admission 4.30pm). Inclusive entry £2.80, child/OAP £1.40.



New generations of visitors: to see everything in one visit overloads the appreciation circuits

OUTINGS

FOOD AND FEASTING: Christmas trails for children — searching for clues for "food" among the ceramics and textiles. Bring a pencil. Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (01-938 8500). Today 10am-5.50pm, tomorrow 2.30pm-5.50pm. Free.

WINTER AT SNAP: MALTINGS: Last of the season's special family concerts. The Four Seasons by Vivaldi, Albinoni's Adagio, Mozart's Divertimento K173 and Mendelssohn's Sinfonia No 8 in D. Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh, Suffolk (Box Office 072 8853543). Tomorrow, 3pm. Booking necessary today. Tickets £4.80, £7.80, £10.80.

LONDON PARADE: The Lord Mayor of Westminster's parade through the streets of central London with decorated floats and marching bands. Central London, tomorrow from 1pm.

MODEL ENGINEER EXHIBITION: Over 1,000 model boats, trains, planes, space models and locomotives. The Great & West Halls, Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London N22 (01-883 6477). Today until Jan 8, daily 10am-7pm. Late opening till 9pm Jan 5, early closing 5pm last day. Adult £4. Child £2.

NEW YEAR'S DAY TREASURE TRAIL: Family quiz for all visitors which leads through the park and all the outdoor attractions. Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent (0622 65400). Tomorrow, Trail starts 11am, last admission 2pm. Adult £4.50, accompanied children free.

NATIONAL THEATRE FOYER SHOW: Rosy the Clown entertains with magic, mime, juggling, acrobatics and lots of audience participation. Olivier Stalls Foyer, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 2252). Today 4.30pm. Free.

Judy Froshaug

BRIDGE

Crackerjack play

Despite the uneven form displayed in the qualifying of the World Olympiad, there was considerable confidence that the British men would surmount their next hurdle to advance into the semi-finals. Austria stood in their path. Rumour had it that the Austrians tended to overbid and were far from infallible in the play.

Brook and Forrester had much the best of the early exchanges in the open room, which were shown on RAMA. Even if Kirby and Armstrong were a little off-key, Britain seemed to be heading for a comfortable lead. Unhappily the results of the last boards were uniformly poor, so the score at the break was Austria 56, Great Britain 43 IMPs.

Conscious that the match could turn into a test of stamina, Friday decided to rest Brook and rely on Forrester and Armstrong playing the TRS system, and Flint and Sheehan, the formation which had fought a good rearguard action in the Bermuda Bowl in Jamaica. Unhappily we played indifferently in both rooms. In retrospect, Friday is critical of his own decisions. But he was no more to blame than an English cricket captain who calls heads instead of tails. The score at the halfway point was Austria 117, Great Britain 75, a serious but not insuperable deficit with 32 boards to play.

Forrester, Brook, Flint and

Sheehan were chosen to repair the damage. They recovered 19 precious IMPs, to leave Britain only 23 IMPs behind.

Friday elected to persevere with the same quartet. After six boards, Britain had wiped out the arrears and assumed a lead of 2 IMPs. On board 55 some tentative bidding by Forrester and Brook led to a missed slam.

When board 61 was placed on the table, Britain trailed by 12 IMPs. Of course I couldn't know the score, and yet I had an instinct that this wretched hand was going to prove critical.

Board 61, Olympiad Quarter-final, Austria v Great Britain, North-South Game. Dealer East.

10♠ K952
J3 532
+1032

AKJ42
J3 532
+1032

In the closed room Forrester had played the hand in three no trumps, making 10 tricks. The board appeared to offer little chance of a swing. But as our Austrian opponents were playing the Blue Club, we were able to create a diversion with a special little crackerjack that we use at favourable vulnerability, against artificial club systems.

W N E S
Flint Fuchs Sheehan Kubak

2♣ (14) 14(1) 2♥ (2) 2♥ (2)
3♦ (3) 3♦ (3) 3♦ (3) 3♦ (3)
4♥ (4) 4♥ (4) 4♥ (4) 4♥ (4)
5♠ (5) 5♠ (5) 5♠ (5) 5♠ (5)

The Austrians were swimming in dangerous waters. Could we make them pay? I led the ♠K and switched to a diamond. Kubak ran his diamonds, ending in dummy, on which I threw a spade. Sheehan a spade and a club. Kubak turned to clubs, successfully finessing his ♠A. Now came the ♠A, the ♠Q, and a heart to the ♠K, on which I was forced to throw a spade because of dummy's confounded ♠Q. After considerable reflection Kubak played a spade.

Well played, but imperfect all the same, because if I had had six spades and ♠10x, he would have gone down. When he tackled clubs, he should have played dummy's ♠Q. Then he can arrange the end game to succeed when I have ♠10xx or ♠10x. In the four card ending he cashes the ♠J. If the ♠10 falls, well and good. If not, declarer plays a club putting me on play to surrender a trick to his ♠Q.

Sadly our counterattack failed by 10 IMPs to recover the lost ground.

Jeremy Flint

COLLECTING

Decanters which improve with age

"This is really Hugo's department," said the owner. "He likes to decant his plonk and pretend it comes from some chateau that no one has ever heard of."

"At least the decanters are vintage," replied the valuer. "The tall, high-shouldered one, engraved with the word Port and bunches of grapes, is a good example of the mallet shape which was introduced about 1755, went out of fashion for a time between 1780 and 1810, and then enjoyed a short revival until 1820, which is the approximate date of yours. The target stopper appears to be original, the whole thing is in good condition, and the simulated wine label adds greatly to the interest. You should insure it for at least £500."

"If Hugo hears that, he'll want to keep it circulating all night for the pleasure of bragging about it. I prefer this one, not unlike Hugo to look at — a fat little fellow with three rings round the neck."

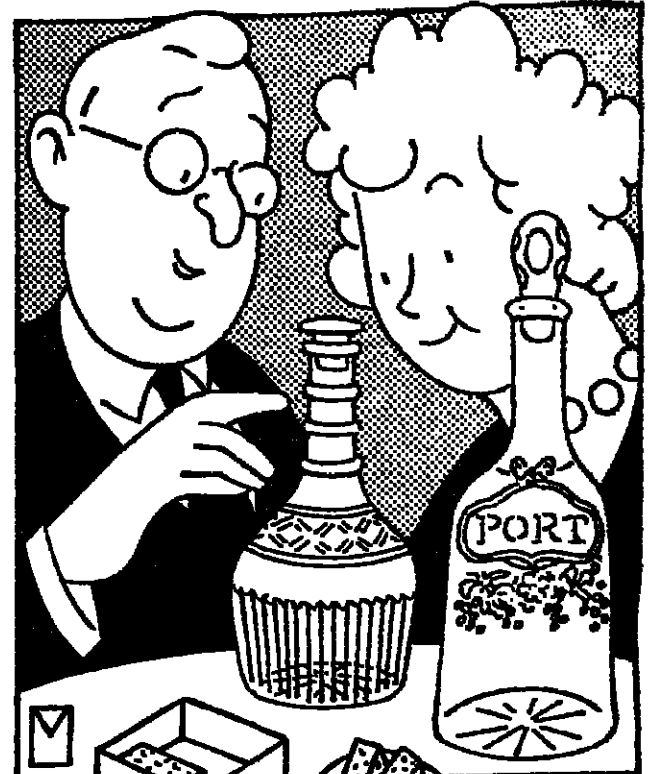
"The cut decoration and the mushroom stopper suggest 1810 as a likely date. The shape was used from about 1750 to 1830 and is popularly known as 'barrel', but it should be called Prussian."

"Hugo won't be pleased. He's convinced that it's Waterford."

"It may well be Irish. 'Prussian' is merely the correct name for the shape, but Waterford was only one of nine Irish glass-houses operating in 1785. Some of them were subsidised and all were free of the excise duty imposed on English glass from 1743, so they were able to undercut the prices of the English products they were copying. Unless there's a factory mark — and there seldom is — it can be difficult to distinguish the decanters made at Waterford, Dublin or Cork, either from each other or from those of Bristol, Newcastle and Stourbridge."

"So all the descriptions dealers use are just a con?"

"Not at all. Irish glass is often faintly blue in colour and a little darker than English, and experts can identify an unmarked item by spotting details they have seen on marked ones. The Prussian-



type decanter made by Penrose of Waterford has three rings around the neck, and a mushroom stopper with radial fluting, fitting into a wide mouth rim. Cork made both mallet and Prussian types with rather slender necks. Collins of Dublin extended the fluting on the base out to the edge, instead of stopping half-way as many of their competitors did. They also favoured vertical fluting on the body, rather like yours."

"I wasn't aware that my — oh, I see what you mean."

"Good. For the specialist, it's not all guesswork or bluff, but most of us can do little more than look for signs of age and quality, without trying to be too precise about the place of origin. Decanters were made in England from about 1677, shortly after Ravenscroft patented his flint glass, and when it was becoming the practice to separate the wine from its sediment. By about 1695 there were 27 English glass-houses and one Irish one making what is now called crystal."

"What about claret jugs and so forth with silver mounts? Were they made in Ireland too?"

"Not the late Victorian versions. In 1825, duty was

imposed on Irish glass, and shortly after that, the English introduced glass-pressing machines into their factories. The duty was repealed in 1845 but in Ireland, where the new machinery was totally lacking, the damage was already done and the glass-houses closed one by one. Soon after the Great Exhibition of 1851, even Waterford had to give up."

"But I bought these Waterford tumblers new, quite recently."

"Splendid quality, but the fruits of a modern revival, not of an uninterrupted tradition."

"You mentioned Bristol. I thought only coloured glass was made there. My Aunt Eulalie had a Bristol blue decanter with a little ring handle and 'Brandy' written on it in gold."

"There were four factories in Bristol from the 1690s making crystal. Coloured glass was produced there from about 1750, but it's not easy to distinguish it from that of Newcastle and Stourbridge."

"Why is it that when I talk to you, I end up more confused than I was when we started?"

Peter Philp

SALES GUIDE

SOOTHEBY'S, NEW BOND STREET: No sales until the end of the month. The central premises are instead given over to an exhibition mounted by the National Art Collections Fund charity, sponsored by Sotheby's and Glaxo. The exhibition, "Monet to Freud", comprises 220 works drawn from the public collections of museums and galleries all over Britain, and charts the progress of modern art from Impressionism to the present day. Artists represented in the show include Bonnard, Burne-Jones, Cézanne, De Chirico, Degas, Freud, Lowry, Matisse, Renoir and many more.

"Monet to Freud" opens today and runs until Jan 25. Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm. Sundays and New Year's Day, 12noon-5pm. Admission free.

CHRISTIE'S, KING STREET: No sales until February with the central premises given over to

65 George Street, Edinburgh. (031 225 2266). Friday, 11am.

PHILLIPS MARLBOROUGH: Paintings, watercolours and prints, estimates £20-£500. Hayes Place, Nissen Grove, London NW1 (01-723 2647). Friday, 11am.

CHRISTIE'S, SOUTH KENSINGTON: English and European glass ceramics. 85 Old Brompton Road, SW (01-581 7611). Thursday, 2pm.

PHILLIPS, BOND STREET: Silver. 7 Blenheim Street, New Bond Street, London W1 (01-6295602). Friday, 11am.

PHILLIPS, W2: Antique and modern furniture. 10 Salem Road, London W2 (01-221 5303). Thursday, 10am.

Jenny Gilbert

CHESS

Energy surge for charity

of aggressive players who wish to play uncompromisingly for a win with the Black pieces.

White: Andre Sokolov; Black: Jon Speelman. UNICEF Charity Match, Madrid, December 1988. Centre Counter, Icelandic Gambit.

The tournament lasted four days, during which each member of the world team played every member of the Soviet contingent. The games were played at speed chess rates, the increasingly popular tempo of play which requires that no game can last longer than 25 minutes. Although the world team took an early and apparently crushing lead, the Soviet Union, perhaps inspired by the exhortations of their captain, Gary Kasparov, struck back heavily in the concluding rounds. They eventually captured the trophy by the score of 32½ points to 31½, with Alexander Beliavsky scoring the decisive win against Britain's Jon Speelman, in the very last game to finish.

It was Speelman, though, who had earlier won the most brilliant game of the competition, a splendid example of sustained attack against a former Soviet champion. The game featured some deep openings preparation, worked out in detail by Speelman and his second, International Master Jon Tisdall. The gambit employed by Speelman can be commended to the attention

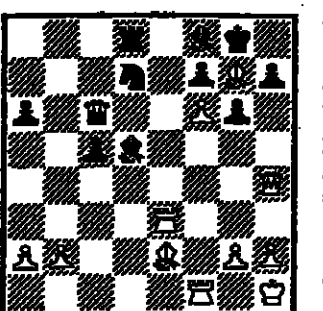
he has few problems. Nevertheless, Black whips up considerable counterplay over the coming moves.

5 d4 Bb4 6 e2 Qe7 7 Qe4+ when 7...Bd7 dis + wins White's Queen. The line adopted by the Soviet Grandmaster, although an improvement on the accident just cited, permits the Black Queen to assume a dominating post. Speelman intends to complete his mobilization by casting on the Queen's wing.

7 Bxd4 Qxb4 8 f2 Bxb5 9 Ng3 0-0-0 10 d5 Bxd4

If now 11 dxc6, snapping up the Black piece sacrifice, then 11...Rhe8+ pins down the White King in the centre. However, Sokolov's choice also leaves his King stuck in the middle of the board.

WINNING MOVE



In the diagram, White, to move, can win quickly. What is White's winning move?

To enter The Times Winning Move competition, send your answer to: The Times, 1 Victoria Street, London E1 6BN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a £100 prize. The winners' names will be printed in The Times next Saturday.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Qg4+ 2 Kf1 3 Qf2 4 Qg4+ 5 Kf1 6 Qf2 7 Qg4+ 8 Kf1 9 Qf2 10 Qg4+ 11 Kf1 12 Qf2 13 Qg4+ 14 Kf1 15 Qf2 16 Qg4+ 17 Kf1 18 Qf2 19 Qg4+ 20 Kf1 21 Qf2 22 Qg4+ 23 Kf1 24 Qf2 25 Qg4+ 26 Kf1 27 Qf2 28 Qg4+ 29 Kf1 30 Qf2 31 Qg4+ 32 Kf1 33 Qf2 34 Qg4+ 35 Kf1 36 Qf2 37 Qg4+ 38 Kf1 39 Qf2 40 Qg4+ 41 Kf1 42 Qf2 43 Qg4+ 44 Kf1 45 Qf2 46 Qg4+ 47 Kf1 48 Qf2 49 Qg4+ 50 Kf1 51 Qf2 52 Qg4+ 53 Kf1 54 Qf2 55 Qg4+ 56 Kf1 57 Qf2 58 Qg4+ 59 Kf1 60 Qf2 61 Qg4+ 62 Kf1 63 Qf2 64 Qg4+ 65 Kf1 66 Qf2 67 Qg4+ 68 Kf1 69 Qf2 70 Qg4+ 71 Kf1 72 Qf2 73 Qg4+ 74 Kf1 75 Qf2 76 Qg4+ 77 Kf1 78 Qf2 79 Qg4+ 80 Kf1 81 Qf2 82 Qg4+ 83 Kf1 84 Qf2 85 Qg4+ 86 Kf1 87 Qf2 88 Qg4+ 89 Kf1 90 Qf2 91 Qg4+ 92 Kf1 93 Qf2 94 Qg4+ 95 Kf1 96 Qf2 97 Qg4+ 98 Kf1 99 Qf2 100 Qg4+.

11 Be2 Bc3 12 Bx3 Rxe3+ 13 Kf1 Nd4 14 Qc1 Rxd3 15 Nd1 Re4 16 b3 Rxd3 17 b2 Rxe3 18 g3 Rxe3+ 19 h4 Rxe3 20 Ng4 Rxe3 21 h5 Rxe3 22 h6 Rxe3 23 h7 Rxe3 24 h8 Rxe3 25 Kf2 Rxe3 26 Kf3 Rxe3 27 Kf4 Rxe3 28 Kf5 Rxe3 29 Kf6 Rxe3 30 Kf7 Rxe3 31 Kf8 Rxe3 32 Kf9 Rxe3 33 Kf10 Rxe3 34 Kf11 Rxe3 35 Kf12 Rxe3 36 Kf13 Rxe3 37 Kf14 Rxe3 38 Kf15 Rxe3 39 Kf16 Rxe3 40 Kf17 Rxe3 41 Kf18 Rxe3 42 Kf19 Rxe3 43 Kf20 Rxe3 44 Kf21 Rxe3 45 Kf22 Rxe3 46 Kf23 Rxe3 47 Kf24 Rxe3 48 Kf25 Rxe3 49 Kf26 Rxe3 50 Kf27 Rxe3 51 Kf28 Rxe3 52 Kf29 Rxe3 53 Kf30 Rxe3 54 Kf31 Rxe3 55 Kf32 Rxe3 56 Kf33 Rxe3 57 Kf34 Rxe3 58 Kf35 Rxe3 59 Kf36 Rxe3 60 Kf37 Rxe3 61 Kf38 Rxe3 62 Kf39 Rxe3 63 Kf40 Rxe3 64 Kf41 Rxe3 65 Kf42 Rxe3 66 Kf43 Rxe3 67 Kf44 Rxe3 68 Kf45 Rxe3 69 Kf46 Rxe3 70 Kf47 Rxe3 71 Kf48 Rxe3 72 Kf49 Rxe3 73 Kf50 Rxe3 74 Kf51 Rxe3 75 Kf52 Rxe3 76 Kf53 Rxe3 77 Kf54 Rxe3 78 Kf55 Rxe3 79 Kf56 Rxe3 80 Kf57 Rxe3 81 Kf58 Rxe3 82 Kf59 Rxe3 83 Kf60 Rxe3 84 Kf61 Rxe3 85 Kf62 Rxe3 86 Kf63 Rxe3 87 Kf64 Rxe3 88 Kf65 Rxe3 89 Kf66 Rxe3 90 Kf67 Rxe3 91 Kf68 Rxe3 92 Kf69 Rxe3 93 Kf70 Rxe3 94 Kf71 Rxe3 95 Kf72 Rxe3 96 Kf73 Rxe3 97 Kf74 Rxe3 98 Kf75 Rxe3 99 Kf76 Rxe3 100 Kf77 Rxe3.

One threat now is ...Ng4, which White hastens to prevent with his next move.

A very fine piece sacrifice, reminiscent of Speelman's exploits in the fourth game of his match against Nigel Short. Quieter continuations would permit Sokolov to consolidate, but the sacrifice strips away the pawn protection around the White King and ensures that Black retains a permanent initiative.

19 h4 Rxe3 20 Ng4 Rxe3 21 h5 Rxe3 22 h6 Rxe3 23 h7 Rxe3 24 h8 Rxe3 25 Kf2 Rxe3 26 Kf3 Rxe3 27 Kf4 Rxe3 28 Kf5 Rxe3 29 Kf6 Rxe3 30 Kf7 Rxe3 31 Kf8 Rxe3 32 Kf9 Rxe3 33 Kf10 Rxe3 34 Kf11 Rxe3 35 Kf12 Rxe3 36 Kf13 Rxe3 37 Kf14 Rxe3 38 Kf15 Rxe3 39 Kf16 Rxe3 40 Kf17 Rxe3 41 Kf18 Rxe3 42 Kf19 Rxe3 43 Kf20 Rxe3 44 Kf21 Rxe3 45 Kf22 Rxe3 46 Kf23 Rxe3 47 Kf24 Rxe3 48 Kf25 Rxe3 49 Kf26 Rxe3 50 Kf27 Rxe3 51 Kf28 Rxe3 52 Kf29 Rxe3 53 Kf30 Rxe3 54 Kf31 Rxe3 55 Kf32 Rxe3 56 Kf33 Rxe3 57 Kf34 Rxe3 58 Kf35 Rxe3 59 Kf36 Rxe3 60 Kf37 Rxe3 61 Kf38 Rxe3 62 Kf39 Rxe3 63 Kf40 Rxe3 64 Kf41 Rxe3 65 Kf42 Rxe3 66 Kf43 Rxe3 67 Kf44 Rxe3 68 Kf45 Rxe3 69 Kf46 Rxe3 70 Kf47 Rxe3 71 Kf48 Rxe3 72 Kf49 Rxe3 73 Kf50 Rxe3 74 Kf51 Rxe3 75 Kf52 Rxe3 76 Kf53 Rxe3 77 Kf54 Rxe3 78 Kf55 Rxe3 79 Kf56 Rxe3 80 Kf57 Rxe3 81 Kf58 Rxe3 82 Kf59 Rxe3 83 Kf60 Rxe3 84 Kf61 Rxe3 85 Kf62 Rxe3 86 Kf63 Rxe3 87 Kf64 Rxe3 88 Kf65 Rxe3 89 Kf66 Rxe3 90 Kf67 Rxe3 91 Kf68 Rxe3 92 Kf69 Rxe3 93 Kf70 Rxe3 94 Kf71 Rxe3 95 Kf72 Rxe3 96 Kf73 Rxe3 97 Kf74 Rxe3 98 Kf75 Rxe3 99 Kf76 Rxe3 100 Kf77 Rxe3.

19 h4 Rxe3 20 Ng4 Rxe3 21 h5 Rxe3 22 h6 Rxe3 23 h7 Rxe3 24 h8 Rxe3 25 Kf2 Rxe3 26 Kf3 Rxe3 27 Kf4 Rxe3 28 Kf5 Rxe3 29 Kf6 Rxe3 30 Kf7 Rxe3 31 Kf8 Rxe3 32 Kf9 Rxe3 33 Kf10 Rxe3 34 Kf11 Rxe3 35 Kf12 Rxe3 36 Kf13 Rxe3 37 Kf14 Rxe3 38 Kf15 Rxe3 39 Kf16 Rxe3 40 Kf17 Rxe3 41 Kf18 Rxe3 42 Kf19 Rxe3 43 Kf20 Rxe3 44 Kf21 Rxe3 45 Kf22 Rxe3 46 Kf23 Rxe3 47 Kf24 Rxe3 48 Kf25 Rxe3 49 Kf26 Rxe3 50 Kf27 Rxe3 51 Kf28 Rxe3 52 Kf29 Rxe3 53 Kf30 Rxe3 54 Kf31 Rxe3 55 Kf32 Rxe3 56 Kf33 Rxe3 57 Kf34 Rxe3 58 Kf35 Rxe3 59 Kf36 Rxe3 60 Kf37 Rxe3 61 Kf38 Rxe3 62 Kf39 Rxe3 63 Kf40 Rxe3 64 Kf41 Rxe3 65 Kf42 Rxe3 66 Kf43 Rxe3 67 Kf44 Rxe3 68 Kf45 Rxe3 69 Kf46 Rxe3 70 Kf47 Rxe3 71 Kf48 Rxe3 72 Kf49 Rxe3 73 Kf50 Rxe3 74 Kf51 Rxe3 75 Kf52 Rxe3 76 Kf53 Rxe3 77 Kf54 Rxe3 78 Kf55 Rxe3 79 Kf56 Rxe3 80 Kf57 Rxe3 81 Kf58 Rxe3 82 Kf59 Rxe3 83 Kf60 Rxe3 84 Kf61 Rxe3 85 Kf62 Rxe3 86 Kf63 Rxe3 87 Kf64 Rxe3 88 Kf65 Rxe3 89 Kf66 Rxe3 90 Kf67 Rxe3 91 Kf68 Rxe3 92 Kf69 Rxe3 93 Kf70 Rxe3 94 Kf71 Rxe3 95 Kf72 Rxe3 96 Kf73 Rxe3 97 Kf74 Rxe3 98 Kf75 Rxe3 99 Kf76 Rxe3 100 Kf77 Rxe3.

A Rook check on d3 will inevitably win White's remaining Rook, when checkmate can only be deterred for a few more painful moves. A wonderfully energetic game by Speelman.

Raymond Keene

The Foreign and Colonial Grandmaster Tournament, with Jon Speelman, Nigel Short and Victor Korchnik, continues at the Queen's Hotel Hastings, until January 14. Spectators are welcome. The Challenger's section, which provides the quality Grandmaster tournament, has been strengthened by the late entry of Judit Polgar, the 12-year-old Hungarian.

TRAVEL

Window on the world

Many of the trails to the world's most stunning mountain scenery are becoming overcrowded — but Andrew Powell finds ways off the beaten track



High spirits: a village child plays a universal game in the Kathmandu valley near Dhulikhel

Deriva Murphy got it about right, I think, when she wrote of the Annapurna Himal, "... to gaze on these mountains almost lifts you off the ground with joy". On my first trip to the Himalayas, it took me a little while fully to appreciate the truth of this statement. I flew from Kathmandu to Pokhara, the starting point for most treks in central Nepal, and, clambering from the plane down a rickety wooden ladder, stared expectantly around. Nothing. Not a hillock, never mind a mountain. Milky-white cloud blocked out everything beyond the end of the runway.

We lurched through Pokhara in a Land-Rover and stopped at the edge of a scruffy field. There the porters finished stowing the gear in large conical baskets, and we began to climb. After about three hours of more or less unremitting effort we reached the top of a ridge and, as it was already late afternoon, pitched camp. The Sherpas being in no need of inexperienced helpers, I sat staring resentfully into the blankness.

After a while a curious black patch appeared in the middle of the sky. Then, abruptly, at an altitude where large aeroplanes are reduced to silver specks, a massive summit loomed momentarily into view. Over the next hour, windows, as if in some gigantic Advent calendar, opened to reveal a jagged cliff-face, a shining snowfield, a blue corrugated glacier, a still higher ridge. By half past five, when the sunset began to tint the landscape a delicate shade of pink, the entire Annapurna range was clear of clouds.

People may go trekking for a variety of reasons — to get fit, to be away from the telephone, to see strange and remote cultures — but the main point is to be rendered speechless.

Pokhara is the most important trekking centre in the Himalayas, chiefly because, owing to a quirk of geological evolution, the Annapurna range has hadly any foothills near up more abruptly than anywhere else on earth: Machapuchare, which appears, on a clear day, to be at the end of the town's main street, rises almost vertically from 1,500 to 23,000ft. This absence of foothills also means that it is relatively easy to get close to the big peaks and their glaciers. Until Sir Edmund Hillary built an airstrip for the Sherpas at Lukla, you had to walk for 12 days (now two) to get your first good view of Everest. From Pokhara you can have an equally impressive panorama from your hotel bedroom window.

Trekking began in the Himalayas about 25 years ago.



Tread with care: negotiating a footbridge in the mountains

The Fifties and Sixties were the great mountaineering decades when the world's major peaks, the 14 which are over 8,000 metres (26,250ft) high, were climbed for the first time. Some members of the expeditions, perhaps reluctant to return to a rather less exhilarating lifestyle at home, stayed behind, including Colonel Jimmy Roberts of the British Army, who had taken part in a successful American Everest expedition in 1963. Basing himself in Pokhara he started out in business with four tents and eight sleeping bags. The company he founded, Mountain Travel, now takes hundreds of people trekking each year from Sikkim in the east to Kashmir in the west, as well as providing Sherpas for Messner. Bon-

village restaurants no longer serve rice and lentils, but lasagne and spaghetti bolognese. These paths are often badly littered, and some of the camping grounds have become fairly squalid.

The principal form of pollution, however, is simply people. There can be absolutely no comparison between being surrounded by all-too-familiar voices, whether British, German, American or Australian, and trekking through wild country, enjoying the world's most majestic scenery in solitude. The problem has arisen because of the rapid growth of what is known as "tea-house trekking". Originally going on trek meant taking everything with you: tents, food, fuel, porters to carry it all, and a

food and, generally speaking, be more comfortable.

Next, if you are determined to see Everest, or the famous scenery of the Annapurna region (an entirely understandable decision), then you should travel with a company which will take you on the less frequented routes. If, however, you are prepared to forsake Everest and Annapurna, the possibilities begin to multiply. In Nepal, treks west of Manaslu (26,760ft) and south of Dhaulagiri (26,796ft) provide spectacular scenery, and it is impossible to buy Coca-Cola at any price.

Then, of course, there is India. Trekking has not so far been developed in India to anything like the extent it has in Nepal, but some companies now employ Nepalese Sherpas as trek leaders. The Central Indian Himalayas are accessible, the Gangotri region in particular being famous for the trails up to the sources of the Ganges. In the far north-west, Kashmir offers relatively easy treks in pretty (rather than overwhelming) scenery.

In the Himalayas, broadly speaking, there are two completely different types of environment. The southern face of the range is green and forested owing to the heavy rainfall during the monsoon. To the north there is an immense rain shadow, and the land is high desert.

Both Zaskar and Ladakh are extensions into Indian territory of this arid Tibetan plateau. Trekking here (and in Tibet itself) is a very different experience, not least because you are never below 10,000ft. Bear in mind that north of the range the best season is summer, while to the south, summer is the one season when trekking is impossible.

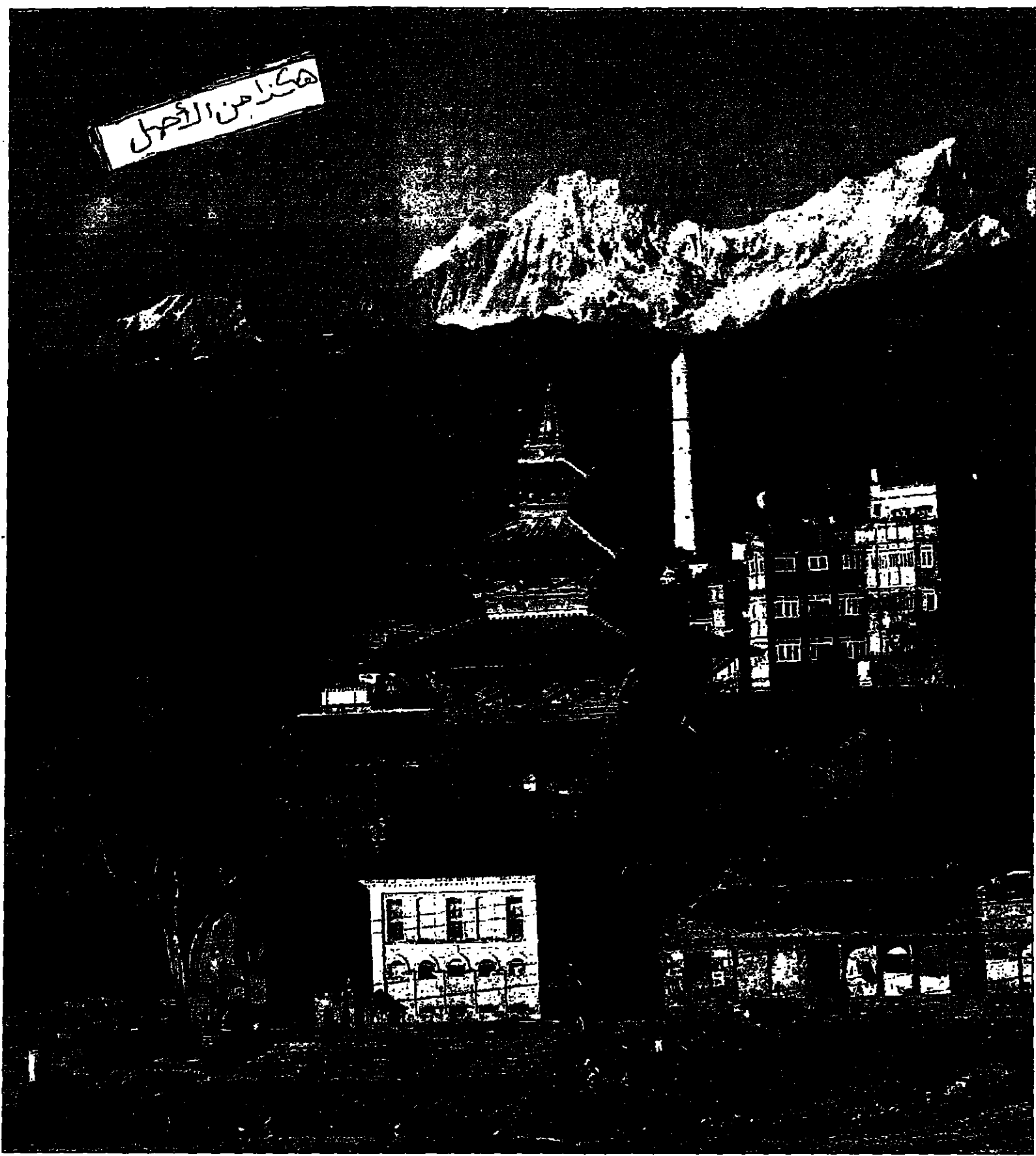
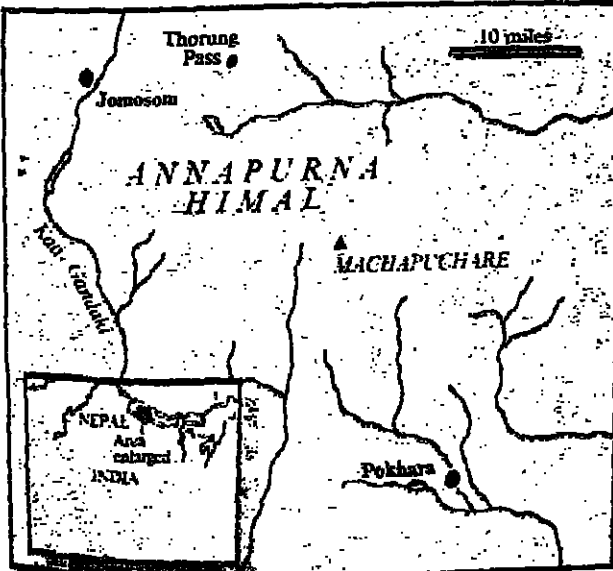
Finally there is Tibet itself, where trekking groups are now allowed to follow the route taken by the ill-fated British Everest expeditions of the Twenties to Rongbuk, beneath the mountain's blood-curdling north face.

TRAVEL NOTES

The most experienced Himalayan trekking company is Mountain Travel, represented in Britain by ExplorAsia, 13 Chapter St, London SW1P 4NY (01-630 7102). It has scheduled treks in Nepal, India and Tibet, but will also arrange private itineraries. Its equipment is of a high quality and its staff thoroughly trained. Consequently its services tend to be more expensive than the average.

- The time of year you are able to travel determines to a considerable extent the areas in which you can go trekking. Winter snow, summer heat and the monsoon are the principal factors involved. The following is a rough guide:

- Spring (March, April, May): Nepal, 10,000-20,000ft
- Summer (June, July, August, September): Zaskar, Ladakh, Tibet, 10,000-20,000ft; Kashmir, 5,000-15,000ft
- Autumn (October, November): Nepal, Central Indian Himalayas, Sikkim, 5,000-20,000ft; Tibet, 10,000-15,000ft
- Winter (December, January, February): Nepal, 5,000-10,000ft
- Despite the beauty of the scenery, Himalayan trekking is often arduous and uncomfortable and you may not like it quite as much as you had expected. It is sensible to begin with a short trek (10 days), at an altitude below 12,000ft.



Peak of satisfaction: Kathmandu is the jumping-off point for Pokhara and eight of the world's 14 highest mountains; in the high season, the queue starts here

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 31 1988

Budd ready to tip-toe back

By John Goodbody

Zola Budd wants to run internationally for Britain again, although she wants to behave more carefully in future to avoid the political problems which have been such a part of her athletic career.

Speaking in her native South Africa, to which she returned on May 9 because of nervous exhaustion brought on by the dispute over her eligibility which threatened Britain's participation in the Seoul Olympics, Budd admitted that she had made mistakes.

However, next time she hopes to conduct her life and career in a "more subtle and professional way. If I cannot run internationally then I probably would stop my running career. To run really well I have to be motivated."

"The one thing that has kept me from training in South Africa is that I know what competing in South Africa is like and what racing internationally is like and I prefer running internationally."

Budd, aged 22 and engaged to Mike Pietersen, a South African businessman, looks much heavier and more self-assured in an interview being broadcast today at midday as part of ITV's programme *Athletics 88*.

She says she has run very little since she left London as the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) was setting up an inquiry on her eligibility.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) had demanded that the BAAB ban Budd for a year for "taking part" in an unsanctioned meeting in South

Africa, which she attended as a spectator. South Africa is suspended from the IAAF.

Budd had withdrawn from the world cross-country championships in March, after threats of a boycott by black African nations. She won the title in 1985 and 1986.

She said: "My heart had been set on the 1988 world cross-country championships, even if I did not win a gold medal or even a medal, because I knew the weather and course would suit me. That did a lot to demotivate me."

Budd, a former world record-holder on the track, says that she will plan a visit to Britain next year before she decides her future. She knows she could not run in the 1990 Commonwealth Games because "the black African nations are so strongly represented there" and the difficulty in complying with the new residential qualifications, which caused her to miss the 1986 Games in Edinburgh.

She says one of her main mistakes was to spend too much time in the Republic. "I had a South African coach then, that was the biggest reason for me coming here." She wants a more "balanced life" if she returns to live in Britain.

"I am more committed to an ordinary life in Britain. When my athletics collapsed I had nothing to fall back on. My family and many friends were here. That is why I came back here."

She went on: "My mother would be upset if I return to Britain. But my fiancé understands and will support me in

that. I have made a lot of friends in Britain. I can still count on their support. I also had quite a lot of letters and phone calls of support."

Although there are difficulties of clearing herself to run for Britain again, she says: "I will never be able to grow old contentedly if I do not fulfil my potential. If I am not mentally right, I am hopeless at running. A lot of my running is mental rather than physical."

Budd, who looks back to her victory in the European Cup in Moscow in 1985 with particular satisfaction, says that she wants to run a marathon. "That is a long term goal."

For the moment, opportunities for training have been limited because she recently cut a big toe on a lawn mower and she had to have stitches inserted in the wound. Many black African nations would only be happy at her competing internationally if she satisfied two conditions. They would want her to become a genuine British resident, instead of sitting between Britain and South Africa.

They would also want her to denounce apartheid, which they see her representing despite the fact that she has held a United Kingdom passport since April 1984.

But Budd says: "I will never denounce apartheid although I am a strong Christian and Christian beliefs include a lot of statements which may not be in accordance with apartheid. I am not prepared to say that Zola Budd is against apartheid or the South African government."



Running story: Zola Budd and her fiancé, Mike Pietersen, a South African businessman

Britain's Seoul heroes receive further rewards

By John Goodbody

Britain's hockey team, who won the gold medal at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, have received an unprecedented recognition of their success in the New Year's Honours List.

Richard Dodds, the captain, has been given an OBE to become the first player to be honoured specifically for his services to the game. David Whitaker, the coach, one of the most personable and talented officials in British sport, has an OBE.

Dodds, speaking during a short break from his job as a surgical registrar at the King Edward VII Hospital in Midhurst, Sussex said yesterday: "As captain I am the team representative but I would like to think that I am accepting this on behalf of the whole British team."

"We had some stars in Seoul like Sean Kerly, who scored the goals, and Ian Taylor, who stopped them, but they would be the first to agree that they could not have done anything if it had not been for all the guys in the squad. From first to last it was a team effort in Seoul."

After the 3-1 victory over West Germany in the final, Dodds retired from international competition. His career included representing Britain and England on more than 140 occasions.

Two other gold medal winners from the Games who have been honoured are Mike McIntyre and Bryn Vaile, who finished first in the Star Class

at the yachting regatta in Pusan. Both receive the MBE for their services to the sport.

Frank Dick, the director of coaching to the British Amateur Athletic Board since 1979, gets an OBE. His period in office has been Britain's most successful period in the sport since the 1920s.

Not only has he helped many leading athletes, such as Daley Thompson, with their individual training but he has also been responsible for the overall preparation of the team, including the choice of training camps.

Three leading figures in Rugby Union, John Kendall-Carpenter (CBE), the headmaster of Wellington School and chairman of the inaugural World Cup committee in 1987, Dusty Hare (MBE), England's most capped full back, and John Kurwan (CBE), New Zealand's leading try-scorer in internationals, have also been honoured.

Ernie Walker, for 31 years an official with the Scottish Football Association, receives an OBE. Other outstanding competitors who have received honours are Tony Alcock (MBE), bowls, Eric Bristow (MBE), darts, and Ivan Mauger (CBE), the former world speedway champion.

O'Donnell returns as a hero

From John Woodcock, Perth

Reading newspapers which carried banner headlines such as "Bouncer War" and "Bloodyline", the Australian and West Indian cricket teams flew here together from Melbourne yesterday, a slightly shorter distance than from London to Moscow. They took as little notice of each other as they decently could. When turbulence made itself felt, no one dared to mention uneven bouce.

The reason for their coming to Perth is to begin the second and final phase of the World Series Cup, the one-day tournament in which Pakistan are also competing. Pakistan will be playing in both matches over the New Year holiday - against West Indies tomorrow and Australia on Monday. Australia are spared from facing the West Indians again until next Wednesday, back in Melbourne.

The pressure on Australia is to avoid losing to Pakistan. Unless they do that they will fail to reach the WSC final and with the Test series already lost, the Australian board would be facing an even more considerable financial setback.

The position at the moment in the WSC league table is that West Indies are out in front, having won all their four matches, and Australia are ahead of Pakistan, having won the first of the four qualifying matches between the two.

What will be an emotional moment in a cold-hearted season is the reappearance in the Australian side of Simon O'Donnell. It is almost 14 months ago that he flew home from Calcutta, having played a full part in Australia's victory in the World Cup, to be told that the ache in his side, which had been troubling him, was cancer of the lymph gland.

He set himself there and then to win a battle much greater than any ever played with bat and ball, and he has done it. Just to have him back should give a much-needed boost to Border's bruised and battered side. He is a hero, now doubly associated with defying the odds.

One of the ways in which West Indies are the most disciplined side in world cricket is in their appearance when on the move. If, as they boarded the aeroplane yesterday, their dark glasses concealed a collection of thumping hangers, following their Test victory on Thursday, they still looked very smart.

The last time I had flown with them was from Delhi to Jaipur during the World Cup. On that occasion it was England who were sartorially outclassed.

● SYDNEY: Malcolm Marshall, the West Indies fast bowler, is hoping to play for South Australia next summer.

DalGLISH questions the quality of pretenders

By Clive White

Kenny DalGLISH, in uncharacteristically provocative mood, took a swipe at the pretenders to Liverpool's throne yesterday in dismissing the popular theory that the English game would benefit from having a different club as winners of the championship.

As his Liverpool team approach the halfway stage of the season eight points behind Norwich City, the most unlikely League leaders for many a year, DalGLISH declared: "I am aware that some people have been saying that it would be good for the game if someone other than Liverpool won something but it would only be good for the game if they managed to reach our level."

The level of performance which DalGLISH has in mind is that of last season, when Liverpool came as close to perfection as any team has done in running away with the championship. But while DalGLISH believes that Liverpool still have a chance of reaching those heights this season, he expresses reservations as to whether their rivals can.

Liverpool hinted in their 1-0 win at Derby on Boxing Day that they were not too far short of their best. But as DalGLISH conceded yesterday, they have flattered before this season only to deceive. DalGLISH spoke of the sacrifices that players have had to make (ie playing out of position) because of the acute problem with injuries at Anfield - "that is if you can call playing in our first team a sacrifice."

Derby given stiff fines for poaching

By Dennis Shaw

The Football League yesterday made a tough stand against the poaching of players by forcing Derby County to pay a £65,000 penalty which could be doubled or trebled.

A tribunal in Manchester ordered Derby to pay an immediate £40,000 to Wolverhampton Wanderers for Chris Sleewenhook and £25,000 to Birmingham City for Jason Kavanagh, both teenagers. In addition Derby were stunned to be told that, depending on the progress of the pair, they must pay further compensation payments to the two clubs who had originally signed them as schoolboys.

Both young players were persuaded to accept terms at the Baseball Ground against the wishes of their two clubs, who had invited them to sign as trainee professionals.

As a result of this breach of League rules, Derby have now, in effect, been forced to pay a nominal transfer fee plus a scale of further charges.

Molby, for one, would not after the sacrifices made by the club on his behalf during his term in prison. After an impressive display for the reserves in midweek he may be given the chance to start repayments against Manchester United in the televised match at Old Trafford on New Year's Day.

It is a game which is as important to DalGLISH, in his attempt to hang on to the title, as it is to Alex Ferguson, in his attempt to hang on to his job. Apart from anything else Ferguson has United's excellent record against Liverpool to sustain. United's Boxing Day victory over Nottingham Forest should have boosted their sagging morale.

Goodwill seems to be in uncommonly short supply for the time of year. If it is the worse kept secret that there is no love lost between Ferguson and DalGLISH, it is a loudly broadcast fact that Terry Venables abhors Wimbledon and the long ball game for which they stand.

In an exclusive interview in yesterday's edition of *Today* he claimed that he could take an average non-League player and within a week mould him into a player who could hold down a first-team place with Wimbledon. "Who wants that?" he asks. "Who wants to promote a form of football that has nothing for dreams of children in it?"

One can understand the sentiment, even if it does sound as though Venables was playing Santa Claus to his children.

For rather too long over Christmas, ironically, Wimbledon could yet be the stuff of which dreams are made of for Iain Dowie, a forward from Hendon. After playing in the Vauxhall-Opel League a few weeks ago, he is poised to make his Barclays League debut for Luton Town at Plough Lane today.

Meanwhile Venables is busy fulfilling the dreams of little foreign boys who want to play for Tottenham Hotspur. With Bergsson, his Icelandic triallist, likely to keep his place, in the absence of Gascoigne, in the team to face Newcastle United, Venables was yesterday advocating that English clubs should buy foreign. "All our best players are going abroad so let's reverse the process," he said.

One might say that Liverpool have already tried that without too much success of late with the importation of one Ian Rush. Since the failure of Petrovic, Arsenal have made do without them. They led the first division for a day this week, but seem more likely to fall further behind Norwich today than overtake them again.

While Norwich are confronted by nothing more menacing than toothless Middlesbrough (Davenport, 10 games without a goal, seems intent on surpassing Birdie's level of impotence at Old Trafford), Arsenal have a tricky one at Villa Park. Aston Villa were responsible for leaving the only blot on Arsenal's home record earlier in the season.

Maguire's transfer is finalized

Portsmouth yesterday completed the signing of the Queen's Park Rangers midfielder player, Gavin Maguire, for £225,000. The deal takes Jim Gregory's spending to over £1.1 million since he took over as chairman from John Deacon on June 1. Maguire will be eligible to play against Swindon Town on Monday.

● Gary Bannister, the Coventry City forward, and Russell Osman, the Southampton defender, have escaped additional punishment by the Football Association for their confrontation at The Dell on Boxing Day. Both players were sent off during the match but would be ordered to face a charge of bringing the game into disrepute because the incident was captured by television cameras. But, after studying the referee's report, an FA spokesman said yesterday: "Both players have each been suspended for three matches for the sending off. We don't anticipate taking any further action."

● FIFA said yesterday it had suspended the Polish midfielder player, Andrzej Rudy, who failed to return home from a trip to Italy with his national squad last month.

McNeill's warning for Celtic

By a Special Correspondent

Having enjoyed the Christmas break, the Scottish premier league leaps back into action today with what is only a foretaste of the encounters set for three days' time.

Today's match of the day is at Parkhead, where Celtic, the defending champions, play host to a Heart of Midlothian side which is steadily growing in confidence. While the men from the capital have twice lost out to Billy McNeill's side in games this season, the Celtic boss is well aware of the threat posed by Hearts.

Hearts are positioned in the table, they will still give us a hard time," McNeill said. "We can't really afford to drop many more points."

For today's game, McNeill will have to choose between McGhee and Walker, for a forward partner for McAvennie Grant, another who has made a welcome return after a long lay-off, looks certain to start in the midfield, though a knee injury could rule Whyte out of the game. McNeill, however, is confident that the young international defender will be fit for both this and the Rangers game on Tuesday.

Hearts, having dropped only one point on their last three outings, will be without the suspended Berry and McLaren, while injury eliminates Bannan.

Elsewhere, the league leaders Rangers travel to Douglas Park, where they take on Hamilton Academical. Graeme Souness, the Rangers manager, has named a 17-man squad, which should see him through today's game and the rigours of Tuesday's Auld Firm battle at Ibrox. Only two points separate Rangers from the chasing pack, and Souness knows that any slip over the next couple of games could be heavily punished. He includes himself and Ferguson in his squad, while there are also places for Walters, who although unavailable for this afternoon's match because of suspension, can turn out against Celtic. There is also a surprise call-up for McGowan, the young forward, though he is unlikely to feature. As for bottom-of-the-table Accies, Alan Rough, who became player-coach in midweek, will make his debut.

The side most likely to benefit from any slip by Rangers is Dundee United after going nine matches without defeat, a run which has taken them into second spot. At Love Street, against a St Mirren side minus the goalkeeper, Money, and Cooper, United will be seeking their fifth successive victory.

Elsewhere, Hibernian, with only three points from their previous five matches, take on Motherwell at Easter Road, while Dundee host an Aberdeen side still without their captain, Miller.

Vatanen slowed by a desert draught

From Jeremy Hart, Sabha, Libya

Jacky Ickx took advantage of easier conditions than on previous Paris to Dakar rallies to win yesterday's second competitive stage, from Ghadamess.

Ickx, driving a Peugeot, beat Ari Vatanen, his teammate, by six minutes on the 291-mile stage across a rocky plateau in the centre of Libya, and is now a full 12 minutes ahead of the Finn in an identical car, although Vatanen was slowed by a puncture and then had his car damaged by the down-draught from a television helicopter, which flipped the hinged rear bodywork onto the windscreens.

Andrew Cowan, of Britain, also punctured a tyre on the fast stage, where cars were averaging more than 120 miles an hour. "I drove far too

slow," Cowan said. "I got lost at one stage, and went six kilometres up the wrong track. The clutch was also a bit rough - a bit like the driver." Cowan finished the day fourteenth.

The Suffolk duo of Dick Partridge and Andrew Davey spent the night under their Mitsubishi, repairing a cracked chassis, which slowed them down considerably. "Hopefully, we can repair it properly in Agadez next week," Davey said. Ted Toleman and Barry Lee started yesterday in nineteenth place, after taking the first section from Tunisia into Libya very carefully.

Colonel Gaddafi was expected in Sabha last night to see the event which the Libyans are calling "The World Rally (a car race)".

Gregory is available at a price

Andy Gregory, the Wigan and Great Britain rugby league scrum half, was yesterday placed on the transfer list at his own request.

Gregory, who was outstanding in Great Britain's win over Australia last July, will undoubtedly cost a new world record transfer fee, of between £200,000 and £250,000, eclipsing the £178,500 paid by Leeds for Garry Schofield from Hull.

The Wigan coach, Graham Lowe, announced that Gregory would not be considered for the match against Warrington tomorrow or for any other game while on the transfer list.

Gregory has already figured in one six-figure transfer, when he moved from Widnes to Wigan.

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One paradise lost, another regained

DAVID CANNON



Augusta, Georgia, April 10: on a glorious spring day, Sandy Lyle employs unprecedented skill and opportunism to retrieve victory from the brink of disaster

Sandy Lyle An afternoon of magic

There have been few occasions in famous championships in any sport where a sportsman has seemingly thrown away so emphatically a winning position, only to regain it with a moment of unprecedented skill and opportunism. Sandy Lyle got up off the floor, so to speak, to win the Masters title of 1988 at Augusta, Georgia, with one of the greatest shots

Which was the finest sporting achievement of this year? David Miller turns to golf and the Masters; Simon Barnes selects the Olympic 100 metres final

In the entire history of golf. There are those who say his seven-iron out of the fairway bunker on the last hole played of the final day is the best bunker shot ever struck. It was a privilege to have been present at an event of such mounting drama, and a climax over the last nine holes that was unforgettable for any British viewer — indeed, for anyone of whatever allegiance.

The tall, unemotional Scot became the first British player to win the Masters. To do so, he had to be the first player to birdie the last hole to win, knowing he had to do so, since Palmer did that in 1960. Lyle's astonishing shot, having pulled his one-iron drive off the final tee into sand, and a perfect 10-foot putt, gave him a one-shot victory over Mark Calcavecchia that added to the legend of this fine tournament.

The beauty of the course, created in 1934 by Bobby Jones, winner of the celebrated Grand Slam of both Open and Amateur Championships of Britain and the United States in 1930, beggars description: rolling vistas of huge grassland fringed with pines, carved across a former horticultural nursery, the fairways lined with a sea of springtime colour from flowering camellia, cherry, jas-

mine, peach, juniper, crab apple and azalea. Yet the apparent simplicity of the wide fairways masks the ferocity of the greens.

Only three foreign players had previously won the Masters: Gary Player in 1961, 1974 and 1978, Seve Ballesteros in 1980 and 1983, and Bernhard Langer in 1985. Greg Norman of Australia had twice been within one stroke of the winner the following two years. The European Ryder Cup victory of 1987 at Muirfield Village had been a warning that this was no longer a tournament which the Americans could automatically expect to dominate.

On a windy first day, Lyle's round of 71 was unexceptional, but good enough to place him at the front. His fine 67 on the second day, when Fuzzy Zoeller shot a 66 and afterwards proceeded roundly to criticize the greens for being too fast and "almost unplayable", gave Lyle a two-shot lead over Calcavecchia. He was maintaining the form which had won the Greater Greensboro Open the previous week, but it seemed too much to expect that he could sustain such a pace. Nevertheless, on a sunny Saturday he had a third-round 72, the same as Calcavecchia, to maintain his lead, with Ben Crenshaw, who hit a 67, now sharing second place going into the final round.

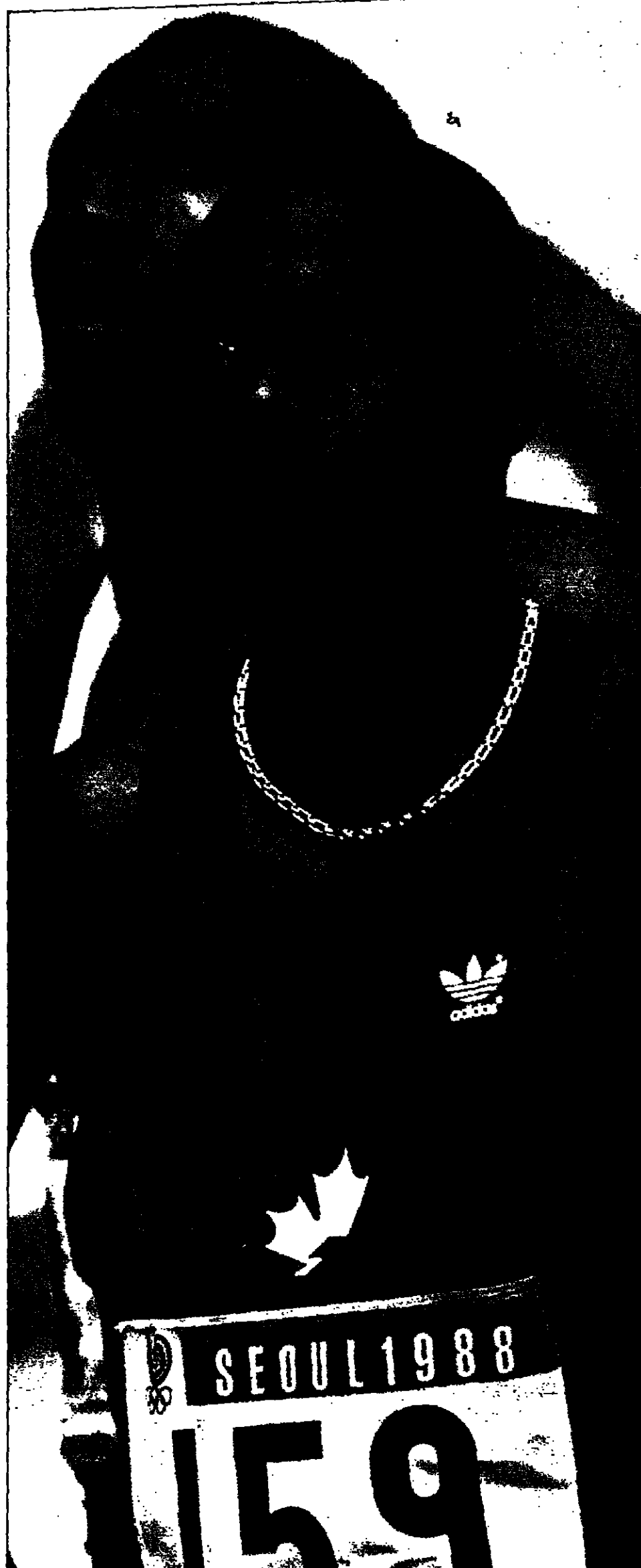
Sunday was a glorious spring day, although controversy continued to centre on the greens, especially, for instance, the 11th: though, as Jones had always intended, the greens are there to separate the champions from the rest. When Lyle went out in 34, he had by then established a four-stroke lead at the turn. It was now that disaster overtook him.

The 11th, 12th and 13th comprise a trio of holes so fiendish that Herbert Wind, the veteran correspondent of the *New Yorker*, coined for them the name *Amen Corner*. They seemed, indeed, to be the scene now of Lyle's burial. He dropped a shot at the downhill 11th and then, plopping into water off the shoulder of the green at the short 12th, took a double bogey five. With a five at the 13th, his 5-5-5 for the three holes against the 3-3-4 of Calcavecchia, playing a hole in front, saw him drop five shots to go one behind. Missing a birdie when well placed off the tee at the long 15th, Lyle now needed a birdie on the last three holes even to finish level.

He got it at the short 16th. His fine seven-iron to that idyllic azalea-decked arbour rested a few feet above the pin on a notoriously sloped green where, over four days, there had been few twos. Lyle made the putt. All square.

It was the most tranquil of late afternoons, the sun sinking from view, as he reached the 17th green. A distant roar told us that Calcavecchia was on the 18th in two. As Lyle lined up his 20-foot putt from the fringe of the green, dwarfed by the pines standing sentinel around its back edge, the stillness among the watching thousands was that of a museum. He two-putted to hold par.

Now came the ultimate drama. His seven-iron was so cleanly hit from the bunker that it did not take a grain of sand; pitching on to the green and rolling beyond the pin, the ball trickled back to leave him with an eminently missable putt for what could well be the greatest moment of his career.



Seoul, September 24: Ben Johnson moments after his triumph, with Linford Christie behind

He sent it straight down the middle, to the disbelief of American journalists and millions of viewers around the globe.

In victory, Lyle's modesty was unaffected. He refused to agree that he was the best in the world. American journalists pleaded with him, in effect, to shout hooray, but he gracefully declined. For all the remarkable confidence in his game over four days, he would not bring himself to talk in that same assertive way in which Calcavecchia had related his own, in the event, losing round. "I'm glad he's going home," Calcavecchia had said with a relieved sigh. Lyle had given himself, and the golfing world, an afternoon of magical memories.

Ben Johnson A moment to rejoice

What was the most memorable sporting moment of 1988? There is no competition. It was the moment Ben Johnson's runaway lorry momentum broke, and he raised his right hand above his head, index finger pointing to heaven. Ben Johnson, numero uno: the greatest sprinter the world has known. In that one moment, he stood for all the joy of human life: aspiration, achievement, glory, thankfulness, utter, utter fulfilment.

You did not envy him: you rejoiced with him and for him. It was an incandescent moment, a triumph of the human spirit. All of us who were there left the stadium feeling twice as alive as before. All that is good, all that is most worthwhile about sport was celebrated in that magnificent victory, those two final, float-

ing strides with the finger upraised for all time: numero uno. No question.

And then to the Press conference. Johnson did not come, not for hours. We heard later that he was trying to wriggle out of it, that powerful men were trying every known form of persuasion to make him step out and speak to the world's Press. The Games and, of course, the world's Press had a vested interest in the success of Johnson — it was heretics like this that we had come for.

Perhaps Johnson did not want to spoil his day of triumph. He knew the conference would be a great falling-off he lacks all-American self-assurance, he has a stutter, he is inarticulate. No doubt he sees all kinds of hostility in the ocean of white faces that greets him on these occasions. In the end, he went through with it. Told us pretty well nothing. And that was it: off we went to write our tales of triumph.

Well, we know the rest of the story. How the race turned into a kind of modern morality play. Those who had sought to praise Johnson now sought to bury him. The politicians who would kill to be photographed next to a famous sportsman were now competing for the chance to dance on the grave of Johnson's reputation. He had disgraced his country, he had disgraced the Olympics. He was the wickedest man in the history of sport. Johnson was made to stand for everything bad in the Olympics, in sport, in the whole world. Why?

Well, he cheated. But a lot of people get caught cheating in one way and another, and they don't get vilified quite like that. And legion upon legion of sportsmen take drugs: track and field stinks with the stuff, weight-lifting is putrescent with it. American football is full of mad, aggres-

sive, steroid-crunching monsters. Lawrence Taylor of the New York Giants has been busted for cocaine twice — and he is a national hero.

But Taylor is a heroic *bad* guy. "I drink too much, I party too much, and I'm hell on quartersbacks," he says with pride. The cocaine fits in there quite comfortably. We want Olympians to be good guys: we want Johnson to be a noble athlete, bringing us chariots of fire. He was a victim of our disappointment.

Drugs make us all particularly uneasy. The innocent-seeming substance that changes you completely, this has been part of myth throughout history. Odysseus, *Queen Gertrude*, *Alice* and *Dr Jekyll* all had troublesome experiences with food and drink.

Added to this is a kind of squeamishness, the awful thought of doing yourself irreparable harm. The grotesque effects various substances are supposed to have on your sexual parts are inevitably, the most famous things about these performance-enhancing drugs; this sums up perfectly the real nature of this fear of outlandish substances. The absolute horror that drug abuse inspires is not moral, but atavistic.

Johnson is paying the bill for this. He will pay the price throughout his life, every time he thinks of what he has lost in terms of money or in terms of his hero's status. He will doubtless also pay in physical terms for what he has put his body through.

Yet Peter Elliott is a hero and he competed in the Olympics stuffed full of pain-killers. He is a hero because of it, and I certainly would never treat a horse of mine like that. Elliott's drug use is somehow acceptable legally and morally, if not logically.

Television has made sports one of the most desirable commodities in the world. Money, power and corruption now surround the innocent activities of playing ball, running races.

Johnson has been cast as ultimate villain in all this, he is no villain. He is the ultimate hero, and the ultimate victim, of a sporting year.

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Ten Plus can take another big step on Gold Cup path

By Mandarin

Ten Plus can advertise his Cheltenham Gold Cup claims by winning the Bradstone Mandarin Handicap Chase at Newbury this afternoon.

It is an important race for Fulke Walwyn's eight-year-old, who is on a treble after decisive wins at Wincanton and Chesham. His reputation as a chaser has largely exceeded his achievements, but his two victories, although he was favoured by the conditions of both, suggest he is beginning to live up to his billing.

At Chesham he had little difficulty beating Aquilifer (received 5lb) by five lengths, and while that is some way short of Gold Cup form he looked more fluent in his jumping, which has often been something short of foot-perfect.

It is interesting to remember that he needed time to fulfil his potential during his hurdling career, and after a disappointing first season went on to win at the Cheltenham festival. He may be a slow learner, and if that is the case there will be further improvement in him.

Despite the small field this is no straightforward task, for in Strands Of Gold he is meeting a high-class handicapper returned to his best. He was an impressive winner of the always competitive Hennessy Gold Cup over course and distance last month, beating Handy Trick by six lengths, although he blotted

his copy book next time when a third-fence faller at Ascot. However, Strands Of Gold is now racing off a 13lb higher mark in the Hennessy. He was clearly at his best that day, and he may not as much scope as Ten Plus.

Against The Grain ran respectably when 11 lengths third to Beau Ranger (gave 20lb) at Haydock last month, but he is thoroughly exposed, while 11th-placed Lightfoot was a long way behind Bob Tisdall at Lingfield earlier this month.

It is difficult to see either of those troubling the principals. Radshaw was impressive when staying on powerfully under 12st 11lb to beat Unscrupulous Gent by three lengths at Market Rasen last month and he is taken to follow up in the Philip Cornes Novices' Hurdle.

Radshaw was impressive when staying on powerfully under 12st 11lb to beat Unscrupulous Gent by three lengths at Market Rasen last month and he is taken to follow up in the Philip Cornes Novices' Hurdle.

He was in contention when

falling at Huntingdon, was beaten only three-quarters of a length by Akram (received 18lb) in a conditional jockeys' handicap at Cheltenham, and then ran better than an 11-length fifth to Ida's Delight suggested, as a mistake at the seventh lost him his impetus.

Blueberry King has won two modest races and has a stiff task in attempting to concede 5lb, while it remains to be seen whether The Dragon Master, who failed to complete in his two starts last term, was flattered by his 100-l success from Sandown.

The L'Oreal Handicap Hurdle is tricky despite the small turnout, but I feel that Sheer Nectar, one of Toby Balding's three five-day entries, can gain her second success of the season.

She quickened well to beat Hope Diamond by 2½ lengths over 2½ miles at Worcester, and then weakened in the closing stages when unplaced over two furlongs further at Doncaster next time. Back to an extended two miles she can regain the winning thread.

Grey Salute was a valuable handicap at Fontwell last time but may be suited a softer surface, while Afriston was hard ridden to hold off subsequent winner Rusty Roc by a short head at Ludlow.



Ten Plus, seen airborne at Cheltenham, can enhance his Gold Cup claims with a victory in Newbury's Mandarin Chase well in competitive handicaps at Ascot and Sandown.

Two titles only for Mullins family

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent Dublin

There is no such thing as a close season for Irish jumpers, unlike the situation which prevails in Britain, and in consequence the statistics for National Hunt racing here traditionally cover the calendar year.

With only today's results at Punchestown to be included, all the main title races have been sorted out and the dream of Paddy Mullins, that the family would carry off three championships, has not materialised.

From early in the autumn there was no danger whatever of Paddy becoming champion trainer for the sixth successive year, while in consequence Willie produced a late rally this month to overhaul last year's champion amateur rider John Quailly and go clear to recent champion of the four winners over Christmas included the big handicappers, Gravel.

Younger brother, Tony, started the holiday period trailing Tommy Carmody by five but he has managed to ride only two winners since Boxing Day. He starts today's meeting with only two booked mounts, Technics (1.30) and Irish Wind (2.0).

Arthur Moore had mixed fortunes over Christmas with his team of chasers. He has a chance of the Flatland Handicap Chase but odds-on favourite Weather The Storm falling in the Black and White Whisky Handicap.

The best bet at Catterick Bridge looks to be the National Hunt Flat race winner Babydome, who can improve for her initial effort over hurdles and take the Stand Novices' Hurdle.

Triumph favourites Hills make Highland Bred 12-1 joint-favourite with Exemy Action for the Triumph Hurdle after his 10-length success at Newbury yesterday.

Propero has a lot to learn and his jumping has got to improve but he will come on a bomb for this race, he said.

The Harwood team are hoping to strengthen their Cheltenham festival challenge at Windsor on Monday when Champion Hurdle contender Vagador is likely to tackle Celtic Shot and Celtic Chief in the New Year's Day Hurdle.

Propero makes the most of error by odds-on Vayrua

The Daily Express Triumph Hurdle prospect of Vayrua suffered a setback at Fontwell Park yesterday when Guy Harwood's contender was beaten three lengths by the newcomer Propero.

Vayrua, the 2-1 on favourite, was held up and taken round the outside by jockey Mark Perrett in the Brighton Novices' Hurdle and looked set to oblige when taken smoothly to the front entering the straight. But he made a bad mistake two out, which almost had Perrett on the ground, and all chance of victory was lost.

"That mistake brought us to a standstill," said a disappointed Perrett. Both he and trainer Harwood believe Vayrua would have won but for that.

"He was travelling nicely at the time of the mistake in the Triumph Hurdle is still very much on the cards. He will have two more runs before Cheltenham but we will have to see how he comes out of this before making any definite plans, Harwood said."

There was little reaction from the bookmakers. William Hill and Mecca quote Vayrua unchanged as a 16-1 shot for the Triumph Hurdle. Highland Bred and Enemy Action, with Propero introduced at 20-1.

The connections of Propero, bought out of Ron Boss's Flat yard, would like to see their representative at Cheltenham but trainer Josh Gifford's assistant, Anton Pearson, was cautious.

"Propero has got a lot to learn and his jumping has got to improve but he will come on a bomb for this race," he said.

The Harwood team are hoping to strengthen their Cheltenham festival challenge at Windsor on Monday when Champion Hurdle contender Vagador is likely to tackle Celtic Shot and Celtic Chief in the New Year's Day Hurdle.

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Josh Gifford, saddled Propero to upset Vayrua.

provided there is a bit of rain. Autumn Zulu deprived Tim Thomson Jones of a winner with his first runner when holding on for a head victory over the last finishing Pukka Major in the Whitelaw Challenge Cup Handicap Chase.

Former champion amateur rider Thomson Jones was understandably disappointed, but winning trainer Lindsey Bower was full of praise for veteran jockey Roger Rowell, riding his first winner of the season.

Roger, at 40, is very near the end of his career, but that is the best ride I have ever seen him give a horse. Autumn Zulu ran a blinder," he said.

"We thought he wanted heavy ground, but he ran on really bravely. I've got this winner's half-brother at home. He looks an exciting prospect, but is very backward at the moment."

Martin Pipe, out of luck with Stepaside Lord at Newbury, took his tally for the season to 103 with a double in the first two races from Lavrosky and Cativo.

Lavrosky, a disappointing favourite in a competitive race at Sandown last time, made amends in this lesser company, winning the Fontwell Novices' Hurdle by 2½ lengths from Unique New York.

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NEWBURY	
Selections	
By Mandarin	
12.30 Fred The Tread.	2.00 Sheer Nectar.
1.00 Radshaw.	2.30 Landing Board.
1.30 Ten Plus.	3.00 Morley Street.
By Michael Seely	
1.30 Ten Plus.	3.00 Morley Street.

Going: good to firm	
2.00 WANTAGE NOVICES CHASE (21.935: 2m 160yds) (3 runners)	
1 05-101 BLUEBERRY KING 5 (J.P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	P Sanderson 57
2 02-102 FRED THE TREAD 10 (J. G. Gifford) 5-11-10	R Sanderson 57
3 06-101 THE DRAGON MASTER 20 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	G. McNeill 57
BETTING: 5-11 Fred The Tread, 5-11 The Dragon Master, 5-11 Blueberry King.	

FORM	
BLUEBERRY KING has won twice at Wolverhampton this season, most recently beating Hovenden (2m, good to firm). FRED THE TREAD never recovered from a setback at the 7th in good handicap company at Ascot last time. He came in a conditional jockeys' handicap at	
Cheltenham on penultimate start when 2nd to Akram.	
THE DRAGON MASTER led odds of 100-1 to beat Sheer Nectar at Ascot on Sandown reappearance (2m 160yds, good).	
Selection: FRED THE TREAD	

1.0 PHILIP CORNES NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,574: 3m 120yds) (7 runners)	
1 002-11 BRANDON PIER 14 (J. G. Gifford) 5-11-10	P. Holey (7) 54
2 002-141 RADSHAW 18 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	P. Sanderson 57
3 00-143 ROSEBRIAR 11 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	H. Davies 53
4 00-113 YOUNG BAVARD 51 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	G. McNeill 57
5 4-1 KRUGGERMAN 30 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. G. O'Brien 57
6 00-152 TRAPLANT BLUE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. G. O'Brien 57
7 00-152 CAMERON 22 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	R. Sanderson 57
BETTING: 5-11 Radshaw, 4-1 Kruggerman, 4-1 Kruggerman, 4-1 Kruggerman, 4-1 Kruggerman, 4-1 Kruggerman, 4-1 Kruggerman.	

FORM	
BRANDON PIER stepped up well when a 3 winner from Epsom on Ascot reappearance (2m, good to firm). RADSHAW beat Unscrupulous Gent 5 (2m, good to firm) last time. Equally effective on Ascot. KRUGGERMAN was ridden out to win the 6th in a conditional jockeys' handicap at Fontwell last time. He came in a conditional jockeys' handicap at	
Cheltenham on penultimate start when 2nd to Akram.	
THE DRAGON MASTER led odds of 100-1 to beat Sheer Nectar at Ascot on Sandown reappearance (2m 160yds, good).	
Selection: RADSHAW	

1.30 BRADSTONE MANDARIN HANDICAP CHASE (Listed race: £3,725: 3m 212yds) (4 runners)	
1 00-111 TEN PLUS 10 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	K. Mooney 50
2 00-111 STRANDS OF GOLD 14 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	P. Sanderson 57
3 00-111 HAVENLIGHT 11 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	R. Sanderson 57
4 00-111 THE GRAM 10 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	R. Sanderson 57
BETTING: 11-10 Ten Plus, 5-11 Strands Of Gold, 12-1 Havenlight, 20-1 The Gram.	

FORM	
TEN PLUS is beginning to realise his potential. He was a 3 winner from Epsom on Ascot reappearance (2m, good to firm). RADSHAW beat Unscrupulous Gent 5 (2m, good to firm) last time. Equally effective on Ascot. KRUGGERMAN was ridden out to win the 6th in a conditional jockeys' handicap at Fontwell last time. He came in a conditional jockeys' handicap at	
Cheltenham on penultimate start when 2nd to Akram.	
THE DRAGON MASTER led odds of 100-1 to beat Sheer Nectar at Ascot on Sandown reappearance (2m 160yds, good).	
Selection: TEN PLUS	

LEICESTER	
Selections	
By Mandarin	
1.00 CERTAIN STYLE (nap).	2.30 How Now.
1.30 Michael Seely's selection: 1.00 CERTAIN STYLE (nap).	3.30 Sackin's Reprive.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 ALL JEFF.	

Going: good (chase course); soft (hurdles)	
1.0 PYTHLEY VICES HURDLE (ESB: 2m) (17 runners)	
1 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
2 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
3 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
4 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
5 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
6 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
7 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
8 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
9 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
10 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
11 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
12 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
13 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
14 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
15 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
16 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50
17 0-2222 DEBITE 15 (J. P. O'Brien) 5-11-10	M. Brown 50

6	20/ GELTIC RANGER (7) (P. Byrnes) 8 Stand 8-10-12	Mr J Moore
7	46 CERTAIN STYLE 58 (T) (C. S. O'Shea) 5-10-12	N Richards
8	50 PRINCE OF THE NORTH (1) (A. Wilson) 4-10-12	
9	60 LEAPFARD 12 (2) (K. J. Bosley) 4-10-12	N Bosley
10	60A-67 PRINCE DEVIL 60 (Holding and Squares) LK J. Wharton 4-10-12	J Padden (7)
11	80 GO BENTLY 30 (Cherry Time Stables) P Hobbs 5-10-12	Peter Hobbs
12	90 STAINS JOY 32 (Queensway Securities Limited) Miss A. King 4-10-12	A. Webb
13	46 WESTERN LEGEND 48 (Miss J. J. Schwartz) 4-10-12	Mr J. J. Schwartz
14	20 WINDMILL (P. Bosley) 4-10-12	D. Bosley
15	50-54 GEORGIA (1/2) (Mervyn LK) P. Parnis 5-10-12	M. Parnis

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urky water has floodier under
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ay, will include the time-honoured gentle Sunday game

self-forgotten figure, thirsting for action after the longest forced idleness in his turbulent life. Ian Botham plans to be back among us, so life will never be dull.



The achievements of Australia over the last five years have earned, in 1989, their first full series tour of 12 matches; it is, of course, expediency too, since South Africa (along with New Zealand the regular focus of Lions tours in the past) can no longer be visited without raising a political storm. Not that that has prevented some eminent

**Compiled by Mel Webb
and Paul Maher**

The last time a British Lions party visited Australia was in 1971, at a time when that country was considered a stop-over before the Lions encountered the meat of their tour in New Zealand. On neither the 1977 tour nor that of 1983 did the Lions call there. How the rugby union has changed during that time!

Nor is it always remembered that the first match of that 1971 tour was lost, by 15-11, to Queensland. John Dawes' men went on to become the first Lions team to win a series in New Zealand, and a couple of years later, spurred on by defeat against Tonga, Australian rugby was transformed. It has helped it to the popularity it enjoys today.

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The main problem in Australia is that rugby union is confined largely to two states, and on a short tour containing three internationals, the same players will inevitably appear against the Lions.

Nevertheless, if England's experience last summer is any guide, the Lions will find fit aggressive opponents wherever they go, many of them possessed of a high degree of handling ability and an imperiousness of adventure.

The composition of the party will depend upon the relative success of the four home unions in the coming five-nations championship. Invariably the captain comes from the most successful country and it will be intriguing to whether Will Carling, England's youthful leader, can add Lions laurels to his accomplishments at the tender age of 23.

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Whether the present league table of cricket powers, and yet how it makes morbid reading for both English and Australian followers, there is nothing in the game to scratch the feeling of an Ashes tries.

The familiar sense of occasion will be with us again next summer. No matter that Australia have shown themselves inept as England in the shade of the West Indian juggernaut, no matter that India and Pakistan have upset the old order. When the Ashes are at stake, it is enough to satisfy the strict sporting palate.

England's recent record since the oldest enemy is temporary. The Ashes were gained by a 3-1 margin under David Gower's captaincy in 1985 and retained on that euphoric tour, led by Mike Gatting, two winters ago. Murky water has flooded under the bridge since then and al-

though Australia are still captained by Allan Border, who led them in both losing series, it is anybody's guess who will be in charge of England.

By then, there will be a new chairman of selectors, with new and hopefully positive ideas. If the Test and county selectors are prepared to accede to logical progress, we may even see the manager and captain in overall command. It will, in any event, be an illuminating summer, with six Cornhill Test matches beginning at Headingley on June 8. The bandwagon moves to Lord's (June 22), Edgbaston (July 6), Trent Bridge (July 27). Trent Bridge (August 10) and the traditional finale begins at the Oval on August 24.

The Australian tour, which also includes the customary three limited-overs matches for the Texaco Trophy at the end of May, will include the time-honoured gentile Sunday game at Arundel soon after the team's arrival. Some traditions, however, have been sacrificed, most notably in the demolition of the tourists' fixture against MCC, a Lord's, to a one-day game.

By contrast, the championship of the county cricket is the two-day MCC at the County Ground, Worcestershire, which opens the season on April 14, has been extended to four days.

There is also to be four-day cricket in the Britannic Assurance County Championships, though rationed to the beginning and end of the season as it was last year.

Otherwise, the mixture is much as before. Well, maybe not quite. Worcestershire, who won two of the four main domestic honours last season, hope to recast paint on with a half-forgotten figure, thirsting for action after the longest enforced idleness in his turbulent life. Ian Botham plans to be back among us, so life will never be dull.

July 28-July 3: Henley Royal Regatta

June: France tour to New Zealand for eight matches
June 17: New Zealand v France, Christchurch

Whether Will Carling, English youth leader, can add laurels to his accomplishments at the tender age of 23.

championship, Porto Cervo
 pt 14-23: Flying Dutchman
 World championship, Allassio
 pt 16-24: Formula 40 World
 championship, Torbole

Compiled by

SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

Sam plays it once again

Samuel Jackson Snead has won more than 135 tournaments during one of the most remarkable careers in golf, remarkable not only for its achievements but for its longevity. He has continued to play on the United States senior tournament circuit into his mid-seventies; despite some ailments, including impaired vision in one eye and some loss to time of his flexibility, he will still shoot rounds in the 60s. He is the oldest man to win a US PGA Tour event, the 1965 Greensboro Open, when he was 52 years and 10 months old. And at the age of 67 he shot rounds of 67 and 66 in the Quad Cities Open. Sam won the Masters three times, the US PGA championship twice and the Open championship once. He played in eight US Ryder Cup teams, and was once a non-playing captain. He won the Vardon Trophy four times. Sam winters in Boynton Beach, Florida, and in the summer is back in his native Hot Springs, Virginia, where he has a big home at the top of a hill from which he can almost see the small house in which he grew up. These are his recollections from the early days of the American circuit.

I have a picture of me when I first started caddy — seven years old. I had a little Sunday bag with about four clubs in it. The driver was as tall as me. It looked like I was going to beat brush or something. Not long after, I started playing golf.

My uncle used to come up on Sunday and get me by the ear or the hair and say, "C'mon, damn you, let's go pitch horseshoes." We'd go out back of the barn, and he couldn't beat me. So one day I was out back fooling and chipping — see, I put some tomato cans in the ground to make some holes and I'd chip with a jigger, which was like a five-iron — and my uncle said, "Gimme that," meaning the jigger. So now we stopped pitching horseshoes and started chipping. I beat him at that, too.

Then one Sunday he came up with this bag of clubs, half left-handed, half right-handed, and he said, "C'mon, damn you, we're going up to the Goat." That was the name of the little nine-hole course at the hotel [the Homestead, in Hot Springs, Virginia] where we could play. You'd play six holes up the mountain and three of them off it.

Well, he'd whiff a ball, see, and I'd say, "What'd you have, Uncle Ed?" and he couldn't count above five. He'd say he had five or four and I'd say, "Yeah, but you whiffed it down there a couple of times," and he said, "Son, those were practice swings," and I said, "No, you grunted. When you grunt, you made an effort, and it counts."

So that was my first golf, up and down the Goat. Oh, they wouldn't allow us on the regular golf courses — Cascades, Upper Cascades — but we'd slip back in a wooded area where a green was and chip and putt. If we saw somebody, we'd head for the brush.

I was the youngest of five boys, and we all played except the oldest, Lyle. He never played any sports, because he had trouble breathing. Poor devil choked to death. I wasn't the best from the start, but I was after I got up. My brother Jesse and I would play Homer and Wilford, who always called himself Pete, and I could beat their best ball. That's when we could play on the big courses, because I started working there at the Homestead.

I started out as clubmaker. I put wooden shafts on the heads. The shafts were spliced then, there was no hosel. You fit the spliced end over the head, glued it, then wound it up. I had to trim those shafts down with a piece of steel or glass, and be very careful because if you trimmed too much they got too whippy.

I learned from Freddie Gleims, who was the pro. He was the most apt man I ever knew in running a pro shop. He would figure out a way to give lessons when it was pouring rain. He'd take 'em up in the summerhouse — it was like a shed — and have them hit the balls out of it. Just to get his lessons in.

Well, one time Gleims and Nelson Long, the other pro, were out playing and this woman came down — a big-busted woman — and asked if she could get a golf lesson. I said both pros were out and she said, "Couldn't you give me a lesson?" and I sort of hummed and hawed and the guy

there named Keeser, who was taking green fees, said, "Go ahead, I'll look out for you." I didn't know whether she should swing over or under her bosom, but I knew a few tricks, like laying out the clubs for alignment, and I worked her. Boy, she was sweating after I got through with her.

After the lesson was over, she said, "Young man, you should have a club of your own." I said I was working on it, I hoped to someday. Well, she was the right type of person. She spoke to the manager of the hotel and said he had a kid down there that knows his business.

Two days later the athletic director, Toby Hanson, said to me, "Come upstairs, I want to talk to you." I thought maybe I'd done something wrong or somebody was laying something on me, but he said, "How'd you like to go over to the Cascades course as pro?"

There hadn't been anybody there since the Crash in '29. He said I'd get whatever I could and a sandwich and a glass of milk for lunch. So I went over there, and, of course, I had a chance to practice, and I beat sod. Oh, I beat sod. They said, "Hey, you're beatin' all the grass off." And I broke the course record twice the first two weeks on the job.

But that was a rough year, because then people weren't traveling much. If a pigeon lit there, he didn't leave with one feather. Boy, you got it all. I would rent my clubs out for a buck and a half — half of them, so I'd have the other half if somebody came along who wanted to play.

I was about 20 when I gave that lesson and got my first job. I actually got into that part of the game kind of late. I ran a restaurant for my uncle for a year or so, and I worked in the drugstore while going to high school. I'd go down there at five o'clock and be there until 11 at night. Soda jerker and everything else. Then I'd walk home, which was two and a quarter miles and in some places through these woods on both sides of the road. You could imagine hearing panthers and wildcats and bears and everything else. I tell you, you didn't tarry.

I played golf in high school, and baseball and football, and basketball when you had to go back to center after each point and have a tip-off. I was fast, I could run the hundred in 10 seconds when I was in my last year in high school.

Then I played bush-league baseball. We played those coal-miners over in Marlinton, Slade Fork, and those places, and they'd be drinking and we got so if we won we just went over and got us a bat to go to the car. We said, "OK, mister, we don't want to truck with you, but if you want it, come and get it." They backed off when we had those bats in our hands.

Yeah, I was a pretty good athlete. They've always said I'm double-jointed, but there aren't no two joints. I'm just loose-jointed. That's the proper way to put it. And if my vertebrae were in line, I'd be two inches taller.

I could have gone to college on an athletic scholarship — baseball and football. And, of course, I could have made the golf team, but they didn't have very many then. But I went to my high-school



Changing faces: despite increasing wealth through golf, Snead still played up to his hillbilly background

coach, Harold Bell, and we talked about it and he thought that by the time I spent four years in golf I'd be further ahead than if I went to college. I wanted to be an athlete, and Harold thought that was best.

Nobody really taught me how to play. I'd ask Freddie Gleims to watch me hit a few and he'd say, "You're a pro now, you ought to know." See, when I got that job at the Cascades and started shooting those low scores, he didn't like that at all. He thought he was a good player, better than he actually was. He'd say, "Oh, you think you're hot stuff now, huh?" It was just jealousy.

Like the first time I went down to play in the Miami Open I had this two-wood that belonged to Gleims. He was down there, too. Well, I won about \$150 or \$200 and he said, "I've got to have that two-wood back." I said I was going over to Nassau to play, but he said he had to have the two-wood. So I don't have a club to play with, and have to go back home. Gleims leaves for Nassau and I go look in

the locker he was using. I just wanted to see if that club wasn't there. Well, it was. Gleims didn't take it to Nassau. He just didn't want me to go there.

Now later that year, 1935, I'm playing the last round of the Cascades Open with Cruickshank and Gleims. I was the only one to break 70 in the first round — shot 68 — and was leading by three. So Gleims says to me on the first hole, "How do you ever expect to be a pro with that left elbow coming out like that?" Well, after he said that, on the second hole I tried to keep the elbow down and the ball went halfway up the mountain. I took an eight, shot an 80, and finished third.

Hell, I could shoot 80 around there with two clubs. I mean, he really upset me, Gleims, but that served me the rest of my life. It cost me that tournament, but afterwards when anybody started to say something to me I'd say,

"Hey, beat me with your clubs." So I learned it the hard way. I could imitate anybody and I'd say, "Gee that must be the way to do it," but that didn't last very long. I'd always go back to my way.

When I went to Miami in '35, that was the first time I went out on the Tour. I drove down in a Model-A Ford and it took about two and a half days from Hot Springs. Going down through Georgia, there were one-way wooden bridges that might be 300, 400 yards long and you had to look ahead to see if there was anyone at the other end coming on. If he was on it first, then you'd have to wait your turn to get over.

Cows would be sleeping in the middle of the road, and you'd have to be careful at night, because they were black and black-and-tan and blended with the road. Before you knew it, you were right up on 'em. There were many wrecks from ramming into cows. You'd hit hogs, too.

I went back to Miami in 1936, and this time went over to Nassau.



Changing fortunes: Snead's results were transformed by the acquisition in 1936 of a new driver and putter

I was shown my picture in a New York paper. I said: 'How could they get my picture in New York? I ain't never been there'

Johnny Bulla, Bobby Dunkleberger, a boy from Greensboro, and I went over on a small freighter, about a 45-footer, and that thing went chug-a-lug, chug-a-lug. It didn't move but about 10 miles an hour. It took us all afternoon and night to get there, about 200 miles, and Bulla and me got deathly sick. Dunkleberger was running all over the place, and we wanted to kill him because he wasn't sick and was eating everything we couldn't eat.

Well, a few weeks earlier I'd won over \$300 for finishing third in the Cascades Open, and I won some more money in Miami, so in Nassau I asked Henry Picard and Craig Wood what my chances were if I went on the Tour on the West Coast. Picard said I'd have to finish one, two or three in order to make expenses, and Wood said: "You want to know whether you're going to stay home and teach or be a player?" and I said yes, and he said, "Well, why don't you go?"

I had just signed up with Dunlop Tire and Rubber Company and was getting \$500 a year from them, a set of clubs, and a dozen balls a month. But I still hadn't gotten the money from them, and I had only three hundred-and-some of my own. Then Wood said if I couldn't make it, he'd let me have money enough to get back home on. I said, "My goodness."

A friend of mine, Leo Walper, said I could go out with him if I paid half the cost, but he was pulling a trailer and it would take us a week to get there and, Lord, I'd use \$300 up just for gas.

So Bulla said, "Hey, Jackson, I'll go." We drove out in his '36 Ford, and the deal was we'd split the costs. But then in Greensboro John picked up this fella he knew who was going out, a football player, and he paid half the gas and oil. So it only cost me and John a quarter of it. When we got there, we wouldn't let him out of the car until his sister came down with the money.

Then, I had an uncle living out in L.A. and we stayed with him, which saved us a pretty penny. Bulla and I slept in the same bed. That sonofabuck could go to sleep like you cut off a light. He'd run his hand over his nose twice, pull the covers over him, and bam, gone. Now, six o'clock in the morning, ping, he walks on his heels to the bathroom and shakes the building. John weighed about 235 then. Then he'd come run jump on the bed and we'd begin to wrestle. We tore up more rooms like that.

Hell, I think as much of John as I do my brothers. The first time I saw him was in 1935 at the Louisville Open, Nelson Long and I see this guy with hair hanging down over his eyes hitting two-woods at a sand trap out there, and every time he missed the trap he'd beat the ground with the club. I said, "Look at that bastard beating the ground with his club." We stood there and watched him hit, and any time anybody watched John he'd hit 'em till the cows came home.

I never saw a man so happy as John when he won the L.A. Open. He said, "Now, Jackson, I'm king for a day." Well, you know, his father gave him hell for playing golf.

Anyway, in the '36 L.A. Open, John is low qualifier and I just get in. Afterwards I'm down in the practice area, and Henry Picard is there and I'm looking at his clubs — he's also on the Dunlop staff and has a lot of them. In fact, Picard was instrumental in getting me that contract with Dunlop, which was pretty good for someone who hadn't done much yet.

So I pull a driver out of Picard's bag and say, "God, this is good." He says to go ahead and take it, because it's too big for him. See, one trouble I was having was with my driving, because I had a whippy-shafted driver I couldn't control. This driver from Picard had a stiff shaft, and my driving improved 40 per cent right then and there.

Now I go up toward the

clubhouse, all clated, and Leo Walper's on the putting green and he says, "C'mon, Sam, I'll put you a quarter a hole." I didn't have a putter, so he said to get one out of his bag, and, oh boy, I got a beauty — a model of Bobby Jones' Calamity Jane. I sat upright just the way I liked. I made three aces in a row and Leo says that's enough putting for quarters. Then he asked me if I wanted to buy that putter for \$3.50, and I could hardly contain myself getting the money out of my pocket.

Now I've got the two most important clubs in the bag, the driver and putter, and I say to Bulla, "You want to split what we win in the tournament?" He says, "Hell, no, you can't play a lick." I said, "I'll play you \$5 every tournament." He says, "You want to make it more?" but I say five's enough.

The first round in L.A., John played ahead of me and came back to watch me. I'm on 17 looking over my second shot and John says, "Jackson, you've got six-iron to the green." I said it didn't look like a six and he said, "Well, I just played the hole and I ought to know."

I asked him what he shot and he said to never mind. Well, I hit a seven-iron and put it about 10 feet under the hole, perfect. I said, "Uh-huh, if I'd a used a six-iron I would have been over the green," and Bulla said, "Yeah, but you forced that seven." See, he shot a high score and he was protecting his \$5 bet.

Well, Bulla didn't win anything in the tournament, and I won \$600, plus my \$5 from John. Then we drove up to Oakland. I'm hanging in there in third place the last day. Revolta's leading, but I pass him after nine — made a birdie three to his slug — and I come to the 16th hole and here come the people over the ditches and under the fences to see me play.

People were lined up from the tee clear to the green. I never saw so many people at once. So I birdie the last hole to get the lead and a guy wanted to take my picture, but I wouldn't let him because the tournament wasn't over. Then Fred Corcoran, who had just come on to manage the Tour, told me to come up to the Press tent because I had won the tournament, there was nobody out there that could catch me. I didn't know the word could get around that quickly.

So they did take a picture of me and it was sent to New York as a wire-photo and a few days later they showed it to me in a New York paper and I said to Freddie, "How could they get my picture in New York? I ain't never been there." I wasn't quite that naive. I knew what was going on, but Freddie made quite a thing out of that crack. He became my business manager.

Now I'm back in L.A. and see Harry Cooper surrounded by some reporters and I hear him say, "What goes with this Snead? He's getting all the publicity and I'm winning." Well, he wasn't winning then. Anyway, the reporters say, "What can we write, Lighthouse Harry Cooper wins again? Here we've got a hillbilly, some new blood, something to write about. It makes pretty good reading." I ownhear this and get the notion that playing the hillbilly thing wasn't a bad idea.

Then I go down to Del Mar to play in the Crosby Tournament. I win it, and the pro-am. They paid \$1,000. I won \$600 in L.A., \$1,200 in Oakland, \$1,000 at Del Mar. I've got \$2,800 and I say, "Hey, looka here, I'm a rich man!" Then I won the Miami Open and the Nassau Open. So after my first whole winter tour — '37-'38 — I was way up there and on my way. Those two clubs I got in L.A. made a big difference.

Extract from *Gettin' to the Dance Floor* by Al Barkow — a collection of stories of the early days of the United States professional golf tour (published by Heinemann, Kingswood, £15). Dance floor was the pros' expression for the putting green.

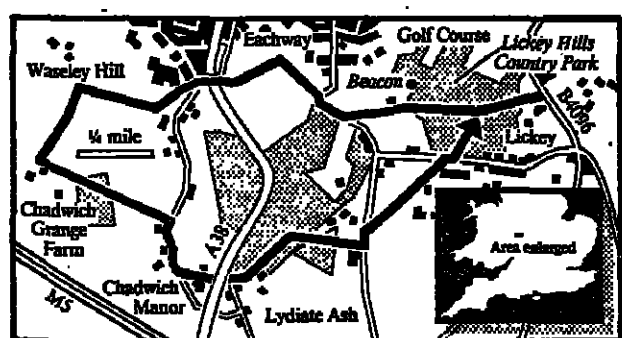
Upland ramble

The Lickey Hills, composed of some of the oldest rocks in the land, are the Hills of Birmingham. The 18th century Enclosure Acts rapidly shrank the 3,000 acres of commonland but public-spirited citizens set about reclaiming the uplands and Birmingham Corporation's Lickey Hills became the first municipally-owned nature reserve, as opposed to a formal park (Richard Shurey writes). The ramble over the "hills and far away" starts on the B4096 — the house unding

WEEKEND WALK

the car park was once a coaching inn, the Rose and Crown. Follow tracks along side pools and a brook, to climb above the golf course for the high ridge.

Beyond the trig point and wire surround (ancient beacon tower under reconstruction) turn right on the lane. A bridleway and lanes lead to Wasley Hill Country Park. Bear right on the ridge then left past a wood to drop down



to a farmstead. A left turn and the route leads to a woodland track. Keep ahead to a road. Go right. Soon the 17th century Chadwick Manor peeps over the treetops. Continue to a T-junction. Almost opposite, a path shares a house drive then meanders through glens to a lane. A step or two left and there is an inviting path over a stile. Cross a road to retrace steps to the old Rose and Crown.

A spring with a twist in its tail

Unseasonably mild weather around Christmas always evokes widespread comment and this year has no exception (W.J. Burroughs writes). Coming at the end of a mild December, recent days have been spring-like.

The fact that we had a cold spell in November and that we still have all of January, February and March to get through seems to be overlooked. The evidence of the sap rising all around gives the impression that winter is over. Even in the colder years

from the 16th to the 19th centuries, which was marked by more frequent severe winters, there were mild spells. For example, in February 1779, Gilbert White noted on the 9th that he had planted his beans. By the end of the month frogs swarmed in the ditches.

The milder winters of the 20th century have produced their fair share of open seasons. In 1961 a pair of blackbirds in Oxford are reported to have laid their first egg in late January. The mildest winter of the century was 1974/75 with December, January and February being virtually free of frost and snow. At Kew Gardens by mid-January 240 species were in flower compared with an average for the time of year of about 30.

But beware in early January, 1987, there was a lot of comment about the extreme mildness. Within a week the country was experiencing the coldest day of the century and all talk of mild weather had been put into deep freeze.

WEATHER EYE

PROPERTY

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Some people happily forgo the quaint charms of a period home for the clean lines of a brand new one. Nicole Swengley reports



City shoreline: top, looking across the water to Chelsea Harbour, where Jacoba Oldham and David Read (above) are still adding the finishing touches to their custom-made apartment



The house that Matthew built: left, Weinreb in his living space-cum-office; above, the copper-clad turrets on the roof



Georgian echoes: above, the McKnights' new house — "it's very warm, draught-free and economical to run", Diana says

New bricks for old

A brand new home is a blank canvas. Free from the vagaries of previous occupiers' whims, it is possible to stamp your own personality on the property straight away.

New homes are easy to run, require little time or money to be spent on maintenance, and are high in energy efficiency. They also make the most of the latest technology in both building materials and internal design. Construction standards for new homes are specified by the National House Building Council, an independent consumer watchdog. Properties bearing the NHBC's Buildmark seal of approval benefit from a 10-year structural protection scheme, covering defects arising within two years from a failure to comply with NHBC specifications, with a further eight-year insurance period covering any major structural defects.

The larger developers are combating soaring interest rates by offering buyers of brand new homes a variety of financial incentives, such as part-exchange deals on existing properties and home loans at fixed rates. Some include legal fees and stamp duty in the price of the property; others include cookers, fridges, carpets and curtains in the overall mortgage figure so that tax relief may be obtained on the lot.

Buyers should check the overall condition of a brand new home as soon as they move in. Common faults are warped doors, poor plasterwork, badly-fitting windows and faulty central heating. Write to the developer immediately if you discover any faults, however small, since the onus is on NHBC-registered builders to put them right.

Being in the development business herself, Jacoba Oldham anticipated teething problems in buying a brand new apartment as a London base for her company, Gin Palaces Ltd, which operates a series of pub-cum-dance venues. Oldham and her partner, David Read, frequently visited Bovis Homes' Chelsea Harbour site (funded by P & O and Globe Investments) while their two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment was being built. "You need to keep your eye on things," she warns. "We went round and found them laying the wrong bathroom tiles. But the builders had to complete the job before they could all be changed — that's the way the system works. We also asked Bovis to lay a new kitchen floor — wood instead of lino. And the second bedroom was badly designed. You couldn't fit in two beds, so we got them to move the wall to make it more practical."

Having seen the show apartment and placed a 10 per cent deposit in April 1987, they were due to move in six months later. In fact, it was 14 months before it was ready.

"It does take time to sort out a new place

and I think that someone who wanted to move into a totally finished home might have been upset. We had plain white walls and a concrete floor when we moved in, so I'm still decorating. I don't think the flat was particularly good value at £270,000, which included a £15,000 compulsory car parking space purchase. But you're paying for its position and facilities."

When Michael and Gillian Heath's children left home and they decided to move into London, they chose a brand new flat. "Now that we're in our fifties, we wanted to put comfort first," Gillian explains. They picked a split-level two-bedroom apartment at Wimpey's new Regency-style Bessborough Gardens site in Pimlico, where prices for the remaining two-bedroom flats start at £250,000. Although the Heaths felt "it wasn't a snap", they thought the price was fair, particularly as it included a porter and underground parking space.

If you have imagination and flair, of course, you can ignore the big developers and create your own home, as Matthew Weinreb discovered.

Weinreb, a freelance architectural and landscape photographer, decided to build his own home on a plot behind his parents' house in Highgate. He contacted the architect, Doug Clelland, who produced an imaginative three-level design, including a main living-room-cum-office lit by copper-clad turrets, and a photographic studio.

Building started in January 1987 and Weinreb moved in six weeks ago. "If I wasn't freelance I would never have been able to do it, because I supervised every stage," he explains. "You really have to watch what is happening and take constant measurements." Weinreb is reticent on the subject of money. "It cost a lot," he admits, "but it's still cheaper than buying the same size flat in Highgate."

Diana and Paddy McKnight looked at older properties near Hove and could not find anything they liked. "But we had to act swiftly as we had already sold our own home," Diana says. They settled 18 months ago on a "Wessex" five-bedroom Charles Church house in a small development of six differently-styled houses. "I don't think we got a bargain as such, but I feel the price — £240,000 — was pitched at the right level. Externally and internally, it's well designed, well constructed and nicely finished. It's a very warm, draught-free house and fairly economical to run. I do think a new house is less likely to have things go wrong, which makes it easier to budget in the first few years."

A guide, "Opening Up a Brand New Home", and a nationwide list of new homes are available free of charge from the New Homes Marketing Board, 82 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8AD.



In search of comfort: when Michael and Gillian Heath's children left home, they sold their house in the country and chose a split-level, two-bedroom flat in a new Pimlico development

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